

THE FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA CEYLON AND BURMA,

INCLUDING THE WHOLE OF

THE INDO-CHINESE SUB-REGION.

*PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR INDIA*

EDITED BY LIEUT COL. R B S SEWELL, C I E , S C D , F R S , I M S (ret.)

REPTILIA and AMPHIBIA.

VOL III —SERPENTES.

BY

MALCOLM A. SMITH

With 166 figures in the text.



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CONTENTS

	Page
AUTHOR'S PREFACE	v
SYSTEMATIC INDEX	vii
INTRODUCTION .	
Structure	1
Habits	21
Zoo-geography	22
Evolution and Classification.	26
Preservation and Examination of Specimens	29
Descriptive Methods, etc	31
Bibliography to Introduction	35
SERPENTES	39
MAP OF THE INDIAN AND INDO-CHINESE HILL DISTRICTS	524
ADDENDUM	526
NOTE ON THE HARDWICKE COLLECTION	527
NOTE ON RUSSELL'S INDIAN SERPENTS	531
BIBLIOGRAPHY	533
ALPHABETICAL INDEX	568
FOLDING MAP OF INDIA AND CEYLON	

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

THIS volume was completed five years ago, but the difficulties of publication due to the war have delayed its appearance until now. Fortunately, very little has been added to our knowledge of Indian snakes in the intervening years, and what has been written that is of value has been incorporated in the book during its progress through the printer's hands.

The general plan and scope of the volume are the same as before, and an account of the regions dealt with and the geographical divisions, will be found in the Introduction to Volume I.

Some 400 species of snakes are now known to inhabit the area covered by this work, 389 species and 17 subspecies are here described (see also page 282). Mr. Boulenger's volume, published in 1890, contained 264 species, he did not, however, include the whole of the Indo-Chinese sub-region.

Most of the work in connection with this volume has been done in the British Museum (Natural History), where the collection of Indian material is very large. In addition I have examined the entire collections belonging to the Indian Museum, Calcutta, and the Bombay Natural History Society, and I must thank the authorities of those Institutions for sending their material to me in London. Both these collections have already been critically dealt with by Colonel Frank Wall, and his labours in this respect have greatly eased my task. Indian herpetologists owe Colonel Wall a great debt of gratitude for his work on snakes. During his 30 years service in the country he infected others with his enthusiasm and love of the subject, and it is due to him more than any other man that our knowledge of Indian snakes today is so complete. His collection of skulls and his extensive notebooks have been presented by him to the British Museum.

The very large collection of snakes made by Dr R Bourret in French Indo-China is now in Paris, and through the kindness of Monsieur F Angel I have been able to examine it. Unfortunately, when compiling his volume on the snakes of that region (page 539, 1936), Dr Bourret made no attempt to compare his specimens with typical material, in consequence, I find myself unable to agree with many of his conclusions.

My thanks are due also to Dr L D Brongersma (Museum of Natural History, Leiden), Miss Doris Cochran (United States National Museum), Dr P E P Deraniyagala (Curator of the Colombo Museum), and Mr Arthur Loveridge (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard), for the loan of material, and to Mr H W Parker of the British Museum (Natural History) for his valuable help and criticism on many occasions.

Most of the illustrations in this book are new and have been drawn under my direction by Miss E C Humphreys.

Finally, I thank Col Seymour Sewell, my Editor, for his supervision of the whole volume.

MALCOLM SMITH

October 1943

SYSTEMATIC INDEX

	Page		Page
Order SQUAMATA	39	Gen 6 <i>Plectrurus Dumeril</i>	71
Suborder SERPENTES	39	29 <i>perroteti Dum & Bib</i>	71
Fam. 1 <i>Typhlopidae</i>	41	30 <i>guentheri Beddome</i>	72
Gen 1 <i>Typhlops Oppel</i>	43	31 <i>aureus Beddome</i>	72
1 <i>porrectus Stoliczka</i>	46	32 <i>canarius Beddome</i>	72
2 <i>floweri Boulenger</i>	46	Gen 7 <i>Uropeltis Cuvier</i>	73
3 <i>braminus Davulin</i>	46	33 <i>elliotti Gray</i>	75
4 <i>psammeces Günther</i>	48	34 <i>nitidus Beddome</i>	76
5 <i>albiceps Boulenger</i>	48	35 <i>ocellatus Beddome</i>	76
6 <i>thurstoni Boettger</i>	49	36 <i>dindigalensis Beddome</i>	77
7 <i>jerdoni Boulenger</i>	50	37 <i>beddomei Günther</i>	78
8 <i>leucomelas Boulenger</i>	50	38 <i>macrorhynchus Bed-</i> <i>dome</i>	78
9 <i>tenuicollis Peters</i>	50	39 <i>wood-masoni Theobald</i>	79
10 <i>diardi Schlegel</i>	51	40 <i>macrolepis Peters</i>	79
11 <i>oatesi Boulenger</i>	53	41 <i>ceylanicus Cuvier</i>	80
12 <i>bothriorhynchus Günther</i>	53	42 <i>arcticeps Günther</i>	81
13 <i>tindalli Smith</i>	53	43 <i>rubromaculatus Bed-</i> <i>dome</i>	81
14 <i>beddomei Boulenger</i>	54	44 <i>rubrolineatus Günther</i>	82
15 <i>oligolepis Wall</i>	55	45 <i>phipsoni Mason</i>	82
16 <i>mirus Jan</i>	55	46 <i>myhendrà Beddome</i>	83
17 <i>ceylonicus Smith</i>	55	47 <i>broughami Beddome</i>	83
18 <i>andamanensis Stoliczka</i>	56	48 <i>maculatus Beddome</i>	83
19 <i>acutus Dum & Bib</i>	56	49 <i>petersi Beddome</i>	84
Fam. 2. <i>Leptotyphlopidae</i>	59	50 <i>liura Günther</i>	84
Gen 2 <i>Leptotyphlops</i> <i>Fitzinger</i>	60	51 <i>pulneyensis Beddome</i>	85
20 <i>macrorhynchus Jan</i>	60	52 <i>grandis Beddome</i>	85
21 <i>blanfordi Boulenger</i>	61	53 <i>melanogaster Gray</i>	86
Fam 3 <i>Uropeltidae</i>	61	54 <i>phillipsi Nicholls</i>	87
Gen 3 <i>Melanophidium</i> <i>Günther</i>	65	Gen 8 <i>Rhinophis Hemprich</i>	87
22 <i>punctatum Beddome</i>	66	55 <i>blythi Kelaart</i>	88
23 <i>bilineatum Beddome</i>	66	56 <i>drummondhayi Wall</i>	89
24 <i>wynaudente Beddome</i>	67	57 <i>sanguineus Beddome</i>	89
Gen 4 <i>Platyplectrurus</i> <i>Günther</i>	67	58 <i>homolepis Hemprich</i>	90
25 <i>trilineatus Beddome</i>	68	59 <i>fergusomanus Boulenger</i>	90
26 <i>madurensis Beddome</i>	69	60 <i>philippinus Cuvier</i>	91
Gen 5 <i>Teretrurus Beddome</i>	69	61 <i>travancoricus Boulenger</i>	91
27 <i>sanguineus Beddome</i>	69	62 <i>punctatus Müller</i>	92
28 <i>rhodogaster Wall</i>	70	63 <i>oxyrhynchus Schneider</i>	92
		Gen. 9 <i>Pseudotyphlops</i> <i>Schlegel</i>	93
		64 <i>philippinus Cuvier</i>	93

	Page		Page
Fam 4 Aniliidæ	94	85 frenata Gray . . .	144
Gen 10 Cylindrophis Wagler	94	86 oxycephala Boie . .	144
65 rufus Laurenti	96	87 radiata Schlegel	146
66 maculatus Linn	98	88 flavolineata Schlegel	148
Fam 5 Xenopeltidæ	98	89 helena Daudin .	149
Gen 11 Xenopeltus Rein-		90 tannura Cope	150
wardt	100	91 hodgsoni Günther	152
67 unicolor Reinwardt	101	92 cantoris Boulenger	152
Fam 6 Bolidæ	102	93 mœllendorffi Boettger	153
Gen 12 Python Daudin	105	94 carinata Günther .	155
68 molurus Linn	106	95 porphyracea Cantor	154
69 reticulatus Schneider	109	96 leonardi Wall	156
Gen 13 Eryx Daudin	111	97 mandarina Cantor	157
70 conicus Schneider	112	Gen 22 Ptyas Fitzinger	158
71 johni Russell	113	98 mucosus Linn	159
Fam 7 Colubridæ	114	99 korros Schlegel	162
Subfam DIPSAVINÆ	115	Gen 23 Zaoceys Cope	163
Gen 14 Parcas Wagler	116	100 carinatus Günther	164
72 margaritophorus Jan	117	101 nigromarginatus Blyth	165
73 macularius Theobald	118	Gen 24 Coluber Linn .	166
74 monticola Cantor	118	102 ventromaculatus Gray	168
75 hamptoni Boulenger	120	& Hardwicke	168
76 carinatus Boie	121	103 rhodorhachis Jan	168
Gen 15 Haplopeltura Dum-		104 karelini Brandt	169
d & Bib	121	105 fasciolatus Shaw	170
77 boa Boie	122	106 gracilis Günther	171
Subfam XENODERMINÆ	123	107 ravergieri Ménétrés	172
Gen 16 Xenodermus Rein-		108 diadema Schlegel	173
hardt	123	109 arcuarius Boulenger	175
78 javanicus Reinhardt	124	Gen 25 Xenelaphis Günther	176
Gen 17 Stoliczkaia Jerdon	125	110 hexagonotus Cantor	176
79 khasiensis Jerdon	126	Gen 26 Ophedrys Fitzinger	177
Gen 18 Achalinus Peters	126	111 major Günther	178
80 rufescens Boulenger	126	112 multineatus Roux	179
Gen 19 Fimbrios Smith	128	113 hamptoni Boulenger	180
81 klossi Smith .	128	114 doria Boulenger	181
Subfam ACROCHORDINÆ	131	Gen 27 Liopeltis Fitzinger	181
Gen 20 Acrochordus Horn-		115 frenatus Günther .	182
stedt	131	116 stoliczkae Slater	184
82 javanicus Hornstedt .	132	117 calamaria Günther	184
83 granulatus Schneider	132	118 nicobariensis Stoliczka	185
Subfam COLUBRINÆ	135	119 rappi Günther	186
Gen 21 Elaphe Fitzinger	139	120 scriptus Theobald	186
84 prasina Blyth . . .	143	Gen 28 Contia Baird &	
		Girardi	187
		121 persica Anderson	188
		122 mcmahoni Wall	189
		Gen 29 Lytorhynchus Peters	189
		123 hodgei Boulenger	190
		124 paradoxus Günther	191
		125 maynardi Alcock &	
		Finn	192

	Page		Page
Gen 30 <i>Rhynchophis Moc-</i>		171 <i>tristis Daudin</i>	248
<i>quard</i>	192	172 <i>subocularis Boulenger</i>	249
126 <i>boulengeri Mocquard</i>	193	173 <i>caudolineata Gray</i>	250
Gen 31 <i>Coronella Laurenti</i>	193	Gen 35 <i>Chrysopelea Boie</i>	250
127 <i>brachyura Günther</i>	195	174 <i>ornata Shaw</i>	251
Gen 32 <i>Oligodon Boie</i>	195	175 <i>taprobanica Smith</i>	254
128 <i>cyclurus Cantor</i>	202	176 <i>paradisi Boie</i>	254
129 <i>chinensis Günther</i>	206	Gen 36 <i>Lycodon Boie</i>	255
130 <i>juglandifer Wall</i>	207	177 <i>subcinctus Boie</i>	258
131 <i>macrurus Angel</i>	207	178 <i>travancoricus Beddome</i>	259
132 <i>formosanus Günther</i>	208	179 <i>laeensis Günther</i>	259
133 <i>tæniatus Günther</i>	208	180 <i>kundui Smith</i>	260
134 <i>quadrilineatus Jan</i>	210	181 <i>jara Shaw</i>	260
135 <i>barroni Smith</i>	210	182 <i>striatus Shaw</i>	261
136 <i>albocinctus Cantor</i>	211	183 <i>flavomaculatus Wall</i>	262
137 <i>melazonotus Wall</i>	213	184 <i>mackinnoni Wall</i>	263
138 <i>splendidus Günther</i>	214	185 <i>aulicus Linn</i>	263
139 <i>cinereus Günther</i>	215	186 <i>fasciatus Anderson</i>	266
140 <i>joynsoni Smith</i>	218	187 <i>paucifasciatus Rendahl</i>	267
141 <i>woodmasoni Slater</i>	218	Gen 37 <i>Cercaspis Wagler</i>	267
142 <i>torquatus Boulenger</i>	219	188 <i>caunatus Kuhl</i>	268
143 <i>theobaldi Günther</i>	220	Gen 38 <i>Dinodon Dum &</i>	
144 <i>cruentatus Günther</i>	221	<i>Bib</i>	269
145 <i>planiceps Boulenger</i>	221	189 <i>septentrionalis Günther</i>	270
146 <i>venustus Jerdon</i>	222	190 <i>gammiei Blanford</i>	271
147 <i>travancoricus Beddome</i>	223	191 <i>flavozonatus Pope</i>	271
148 <i>tæniolatus Jerdon</i>	223	Gen 39 <i>Dryocalamus Gün-</i>	
149 <i>arnensis Shaw</i>	225	<i>ther</i>	272
150 <i>sublineatus Dum & Bib</i>	227	192 <i>nympha Daudin</i>	274
151 <i>calamarius Linn</i>	228	193 <i>davisoni Blanford</i>	274
152 <i>erythrorhachis Wall</i>	229	194 <i>gracilis Günther</i>	275
153 <i>melaneus Wall</i>	229	Gen 40 <i>Sibynophis Fitzinger</i>	276
154 <i>affinis Günther</i>	230	195 <i>collaris Gray</i>	277
155 <i>brevicauda Günther</i>	231	196 <i>chinensis Günther</i>	278
156 <i>erythrogaster Boulenger</i>	232	197 <i>subpunctatus Dum &</i>	
157 <i>catenata Blyth</i>	232	<i>Bib</i>	279
158 <i>mcDougalli Wall</i>	234	198 <i>bistrigatus Günther</i>	279
159 <i>dorsalis Gray & Hard-</i>		199 <i>graham Boulenger</i>	280
<i>wicke</i>	234	200 <i>sagittarius Cantor</i>	280
160 <i>hamptoni Boulenger</i>	235	Gen 41 <i>Natrix Laurenti</i>	281
161 <i>lacroixi Angel & Bourret</i>	236	201 <i>nuchalis Boulenger</i>	284
Gen 33 <i>Calamaria Boie</i>	236	202 <i>venningi Wall</i>	286
162 <i>pavimentata Dum &</i>		203 <i>sauteri Boulenger</i>	287
<i>Bib</i>	238	204 <i>atemporalis Bourret</i>	287
163 <i>uniformis Smith</i>	238	205 <i>parallela Boulenger</i>	288
164 <i>septentrionalis Boulen-</i>		206 <i>nicobariensis Slater</i>	289
<i>ger</i>	239	207 <i>khasiensis Boulenger</i>	289
Gen 34 <i>Ahætulla Link</i>	239	208 <i>modesta Günther</i>	290
165 <i>ahætulla Linn</i>	242	209 <i>peali Slater</i>	291
166 <i>cyanochloris Wall</i>	244	210 <i>venura Wall</i>	292
167 <i>grandoculis Boulenger</i>	245	211 <i>punctulata Günther</i>	292
168 <i>gorei Wall</i>	246	212 <i>piscator Schneider</i>	293
169 <i>bifrenalis Boulenger</i>	246		
170 <i>caudolineolata Günther</i>	247		

	Page		Page
213	trianguligera Boie	298	
214	bellula Stoliczka	298	
215	percarinata Boulenger	299	
216	angeli Bourret	300	
217	himalayana Günther	300	
218	subminiata Schlegel	303	
219	stolata Linn	303	
220	platyceps Blyth	305	
221	beddomei Günther	306	
222	mgroemeta Blyth	307	
223	monticola Jerdon	308	
224	chrysarga Boie	308	
225	callichroma Bourret	309	
Gen 42	Balanophis Smith	310	
226	ceylonensis Günther	310	
Gen 43	Pseudoxenodon Boulenger	311	
227	macrops Blyth	311	
228	bambusicola Vogt	313	
229	popei Gressitt	314	
Gen 44	Macropisthodon Boulenger	314	
230	plumbicolor Cantor	314	
Gen 45	Pararhabdophis Bourret	316	
231	chapaensis Bourret	316	
Gen 46	Xenochrophis Günther	317	
232	cerasogaster Cantor	317	
Gen 47	Atretium Cope	319	
233	schistosum Daudin	319	
234	yunnanensis Anderson	320	
Gen 48	Trachischium Günther	321	
235	monticola Cantor	322	
236	fuscum Blyth	322	
237	guentheri Boulenger	323	
238	teniceps Blyth	323	
239	laeve Peracca	324	
Gen 49	Plagiopholis Boulenger	324	
240	blakewayi Boulenger	325	
241	delacouri Angel	326	
242	nuchalis Boulenger	326	
Gen 50	Rhabdops Boulenger	327	
243	olivaceus Beddome	328	
244	bicolor Blyth	328	
Gen 51	Opisthotropis Günther	330	
245	balteatus Cope	331	
246	premaxillaris Angel	332	
247	lateralis Boulenger	332	
248	andersoni Boulenger	333	
249	spenceri Smith	333	
250	jacobi Angel & Bourret	333	
251	annamensis Bourret	334	
Gen 52	Aspiduina Wagler	334	
252	brachyorrhus Boie	336	
253	copii Günther	336	
254	trachyprocta Cope	337	
255	drummond-hayi Boulenger	338	
256	guentheri Ferguson	338	
Gen 53	Blythia Theobald	338	
257	reticulata Blyth	339	
Gen 54	Haplocercus Günther	340	
258	ceylonensis Günther	341	
Gen 55	Xylophis Beddome	341	
259	perroteti Dum & Bib	342	
260	stenorhynchus Günther	343	
Gen 56	Boiga Fitzinger	344	
261	multimaculata Boie	347	
262	ochracea Günther	348	
263	trigonata Schneider	349	
264	gokool Gray	351	
265	ceylonensis Günther	351	
266	quincunciata Wall	353	
267	barnesi Günther	354	
268	cyanea Dum & Bib	355	
269	multitemporalis Bourret	356	
270	multifasciata Blyth	357	
271	cynodon Boie	357	
272	forsteri Dum & Bib	358	
273	dightoni Boulenger	359	
Gen 57	Tarbophis Fleischmann	360	
274	rhinopoma Blanford	360	
Gen 58	Psammophis Fitzinger	361	
275	schokari Forskål	363	
276	condanarus Merrem	364	
277	longifrons Boulenger	365	
278	leithi Günther	366	
279	lineolatus Brandt	367	
Gen 59	Psammodynastes Günther	368	
280	pulverulentus Boie	368	

	Page		Page
Gen 60 <i>Dryophis Dalman</i>	370	309 <i>flaviceps Reinhardt</i>	410
281 <i>perroteti Dum & Bib</i>	373	310 <i>fasciatus Schneider</i> . .	411
282 <i>dispar Günther</i>	373	311 <i>cæruleus Schneider</i> . .	413
283 <i>fronticinctus Günther</i>	374	312 <i>ceylonicus Günther</i> . .	415
284 <i>prasinus Boie</i> . .	375	313 <i>multicinctus Blyth</i>	416
285 <i>mycterizans Linn</i> . .	376	314 <i>candidus Linn</i> . .	416
286 <i>nasutus Lacépède</i>	376	315 <i>magnimaculatus Wall</i>	
287 <i>pulverulentus Dum & Bib</i>	378	<i>& Evans</i> . .	417
Subfam HOMALOPSINÆ . .	379	316 <i>niger Wall</i>	417
Gen 61 <i>Enhydris Sonn & Latr</i>	380	317 <i>lividus Cantor</i>	418
288 <i>plumbea Boie</i> . .	382	318 <i>wall Wall</i> . .	418
289 <i>enhydris Schneider</i>	383	Gen 71 <i>Callophis Gray</i> . .	418
290 <i>jagori Peters</i> . .	384	319 <i>melanurus Shaw</i> . . .	420
291 <i>innominata Morice</i>	385	320 <i>maculiceps Günther</i> . .	420
292 <i>smithi Boulenger</i>	385	321 <i>hughii Cochran</i> . . .	421
293 <i>longicauda Bourret</i>	386	322 <i>nigrescens Günther</i> . .	422
294 <i>bennetti Gray</i> . .	386	323 <i>beddomei Smith</i> . . .	423
295 <i>chinensis Gray</i> . .	387	324 <i>maclellandi Reinhardt</i> .	423
296 <i>maculosa Blanford</i> . .	387	325 <i>bibroni Jan</i> . . .	425
297 <i>bocourti Jan</i>	388	326 <i>kelloggi Pope</i> . .	426
298 <i>dussumieri Dum & Bib</i>	389	Gen 72 <i>Naja Laurenti</i> . .	426
299 <i>seboldi Schlegel</i>	389	327 <i>naja Linn</i> . .	427
Gen 62 <i>Homalopsis Kuhl & Hass</i>	390	328 <i>bannah Cantor</i>	436
300 <i>buccata Linn</i> . . .	390	Fam 10 <i>Hydrophildæ</i> . .	439
Gen 63 <i>Cerberus Cuvier</i> . .	392	Gen 73 <i>Laticauda Laurenti</i> .	442
301 <i>rhynchops Schneider</i> .	393	329 <i>laticaudata Linn</i> . . .	442
Gen 64 <i>Gerardia Gray</i> . . .	394	330 <i>colubrina Schneider</i> .	443
302 <i>prevostiana Eud & Gerv</i>	394	Gen 74 <i>Aepyurus Lacépède</i> .	445
Gen 65 <i>Fordonia Gray</i> . .	396	331 <i>eydouxii Gray</i> . .	445
303 <i>leucobalia Schlegel</i> . . .	396	Gen 75 <i>Kerria Gray</i> . .	446
Gen 66 <i>Cantoria Girard</i> . .	397	332 <i>jerdoni Gray</i> . . .	447
304 <i>violacea Girard</i>	398	Gen 76 <i>Præscutata Wall</i> . .	447
Gen 67 <i>Bitia Gray</i> . .	399	333 <i>viperina Schmidt</i>	448
305 <i>hydroides Gray</i> . . .	400	Gen 77 <i>Enhydrina Gray</i> . .	449
Gen 68 <i>Herpeton Lacépède</i>	400	334 <i>schistosa Daudin</i> . .	449
306 <i>tentaculatum Lacépède</i>	401	Gen 78 <i>Hydrophis Latreille</i> .	451
Fam 8 <i>Dasypeltidæ</i> . .	403	335 <i>mgrocinctus Daudin</i>	452
Gen 69 <i>Elachistodon Reinhardt</i>	404	336 <i>spiralis Shaw</i> . . .	453
307 <i>westermanni Reinhardt</i>	404	337 <i>cyanocinctus Daudin</i>	454
Fam 9 <i>Elapidæ</i> . . .	406	338 <i>obscurus Daudin</i> . .	457
Gen 70 <i>Bungarus Daudin</i> .	407	339 <i>klossi Boulenger</i> . .	457
308 <i>bungaroides Cantor</i> . .	410	340 <i>bituberculatus Peters</i> .	458
		341 <i>stricticollis Günther</i>	459
		342 <i>torquatus diadema</i>	
		<i>Günther</i> . . .	460
		343 <i>ornatus ornatus Gray</i> .	460
		344 <i>lapemoides Gray</i> . .	461
		345 <i>mamillaris Daudin</i> . .	462
		346 <i>cærulescens Shaw</i> . .	463
		347 <i>fasciatus Schneider</i> .	464

	Page		Page
348 parviceps <i>Smith</i>	465	Gen. 89 Eristorophis <i>Alcock</i>	
349 brookei <i>Günther</i>	465	& <i>Finn</i>	492
Gen 79 Thalassophis <i>Schmidt</i>	466	364 mcmahoni <i>Alcock &</i>	
350 anomalous <i>Schmidt</i>	466	<i>Finn</i>	493
Gen 80 Kolpophis <i>Smith</i>	467	Subfam CROTALINÆ	494
351 annandalei <i>Laudlau</i>	467	Gen 90 Ancistrodon <i>Beau-</i>	
Gen 81 Lapomys <i>Gray</i>	468	<i>vois</i>	494
352 hardwickii <i>Gray</i>	468	365 himalayanus <i>Günther</i>	495
353 curtus <i>Shaw</i>	470	366 rhodostoma <i>Boie</i>	497
Gen 82 Astrotia <i>Fischer</i>	471	367 halya <i>Pallav</i>	499
354 stokesi <i>Gray</i>	471	368 hypnale <i>Merrem</i>	499
Gen 83 Microcephalophis		369 nepa <i>Laurenti</i>	500
<i>Lesson</i>	472	370 acutus <i>Günther</i>	501
355 gracilis <i>Shaw</i>	472	Gen 91 Trimerosurus <i>Lacé-</i>	
356 cantoris <i>Günther</i>	475	<i>pède</i>	502
Gen 84 Pelamis <i>Daudin</i>	475	371 macrolepis <i>Beddome</i>	505
357 platurus <i>Linn</i>	476	372 trigonocephalus <i>Sonn</i>	
Fam 11 Viperidæ	477	& <i>Latr</i>	506
Subfam VIPERINÆ	480	373 mucrosquamatus <i>Cantor</i>	507
Gen 85 Azemiops <i>Boulenger</i>	480	374 monticola <i>Günther</i>	508
358 fear <i>Boulenger</i>	480	375 jerdoni <i>Günther</i>	510
Gen 86 Vipera <i>Laurenti</i>	482	376 kaulbacki <i>Smith</i>	512
359 russelli <i>Shaw</i>	483	377 malabaricus <i>Jerdon</i>	513
360 lebetina <i>Linn</i>	486	378 strigatus <i>Gray</i>	514
Gen 87 Echis <i>Merrem</i>	487	379 cornutus <i>Smith</i>	514
361 carinatus <i>Schneider</i>	487	380 gramineus <i>Shaw</i>	515
Gen 88 Pseudocerastes		381 stejnegeri <i>Schmidt</i>	517
<i>Boulenger</i>	490	382 popeorum <i>Smith</i>	518
362 persicus <i>Dum & Bib</i>	490	383 kanburiensis <i>Smith</i>	519
363 bicornis <i>Wall</i>	492	384 cantori <i>Blyth</i>	519
		385 purpureomaculatus	
		<i>Gray & Hard</i>	520
		386 orythrurus <i>Cantor</i>	522
		387. albolabris <i>Gray</i>	523
		388 labialis <i>Fitzinger</i>	525
		ADDENDUM	
		62 a Rhinophis dorsimacu-	
		latus <i>Deraniyagala</i>	526

INTRODUCTION.

The Bibliography of this Chapter is given on p 35

THE Serpentes or Snakes are a suborder of the order Squamata, which includes, besides the Sauria or Lizards, the extinct Pythonomorpha, Aigialosauria, and Dolichosauria. They can be distinguished from lizards by the following combination of characters.—

The two halves of the mandible are united at the symphysis by elastic ligament and are movable independently; the anterior end of the brain-case is completely, or nearly completely, closed, the vertebræ, in addition to the anterior and posterior zygapophyses, have a pair of accessory articulations dorsal to them, namely, the zygantrum and zygosphenæ, the body is greatly elongated and without limbs, or with merely vestiges of a hind pair; the eyes are without lids; there is no ear-opening; the tongue is elongate and more or less deeply forked, and is retractile into a basal sheath. Like the lizards the body is covered with scales, the vent transverse, and the copulatory organs paired.

The close relationship between the two groups is shown also in the peculiarly ophidian characters which have arisen independently in certain of the Saurian families. These are the ophidian type of vertebræ in the Iguanidæ, the elongation of the body and the disappearance of the limbs in the Pygopodidæ, Anguidæ, Teiidæ, Amphisbænidæ, and Scincidæ; the eye-covering in the Pygopodidæ, Teiidæ, Scincidæ, and Laceratidæ, the tongue in the Varanidæ; and the approach to the ophidian type of ear in the Agamidæ.

About 2,500 species of snakes are known.

Much has been written upon the anatomy of snakes, but no complete account of any one species, comparable with those which have been written on the Frog, the Salamander or the Tortoise, is, as yet, available. The following general remarks on structure, habits, distribution, etc., have particular reference to the Oriental species. They deal also with the recent advances in knowledge concerning snakes, and suggest lines for further research.

It has been truly said that we do not know a species until we know everything about it, its anatomy, its physiology, its development, its habits. The variations in structure in different families and genera, sometimes even in species that are placed in the same genus, have no doubt their interpretation in their varying modes of life, and the correlation of the two is a fascinating study. It is one that has been much neglected by the field naturalist. Here is a great field of research waiting for him, for it is upon the living creature that all our theories concerning the function of structure must finally be tested.

The Teeth.

Teeth are present in the majority of snakes on the maxillary, palatine, pterygoid, and mandibular bones, in the primitive families they may be present also upon the premaxilla. In some genera they are much reduced in number and size, but in none are they completely lost. They are not implanted in true sockets, but simply ankylosed to the bone, leaving, when detached, a shallow impression. From an evolutionary standpoint the main changes in dentition have occurred on the maxillary bone, and its value for taxonomic purposes is much greater than that of any other bone of the palatamaxillary arch. Its shape also and its position with regard to the other bones of the arch are sometimes of value. An accurate count of the number of teeth is important, and to do this the maxilla or the entire arch may have to be removed, cleaned, and dried, any impressions from teeth that have dropped out can then be seen. In some specimens every alternate tooth has dropped out, so that the jaw appears, on superficial examination, to possess only half the real number. There is a perpetual succession of teeth, the new ones lying in the gum on the inner side. These replacement teeth, in different stages of development, can often be seen, sometimes as many as three or four sets lying in vertical series, one above the other. Three types of teeth are distinguished, namely, solid, grooved, and canaliculate. Solid teeth (aglyphous) occur in all the primitive snakes, and in more than half the Colubridæ. The grooved teeth of the Opisthoglypha are confined to the last two or three maxillary teeth. They are usually larger than the others. The groove is on the external or antero-external surface of the tooth, it varies considerably in depth in different species, and may be so slight that some magnification is required to see it. It communicates by a duct or ducts with the poison gland above. The canaliculate fangs of the Proteroglypha (Elapidæ) and Solenoglypha (Viperidæ) are found only in the front of the mouth. The canal has been derived from the grooved condition by its extension into the tooth so that a horse-shoe shaped condition is finally

produced when seen in transverse section. The ring is then completed by filling in the gap between the two heels of the shoe, and not by union of the real structures of the tooth, namely, the dentine and enamel. How poor is this connection in the Elapidæ, in which the line of union is visible, can be shown by decalcifying the tooth, when the filling disappears and the groove is reinstated. The Cobra, in fact, can be returned to the opisthoglyphs. In the Viperidæ the union is more perfect and cannot be removed in the same way. This striking contrast between the two families is evidence not only of the separate, but also of the older, origin of the Vipers. Poison fangs, like the other teeth in the jaws, are replaced by succession. In the Viperidæ a cluster of three or four or more reserve teeth can often be seen, in the Elapidæ only one or two can be seen with the naked eye. There is no direct attachment of the poison duct to the fang. When it reaches the base of the tooth it expands into a small cavity in the fold of the gum, overlying the opening into the canal. The loss of the tooth, therefore, does not cause any injury to the duct, and no repair is needed. The supply of venom is always ready for the next tooth, which is almost in position before the old one is shed.

It is convenient here to state that there is no single character, except that of the poison fangs, by which to distinguish the harmless snakes from the poisonous ones. In some species (*Callophis*) the fang is extremely small, and usually needs some magnification to decide its nature. All the Elapidæ lack a loreal shield, but this is absent also in many harmless snakes, particularly in members of the *Trachischium-Opisthotropis* group. Wall, in his 'Poisonous Terrestrial Snakes of our British Indian Dominions,' has produced a very serviceable key for their identification. It would not, however, cover all those included in this work.

The Eye.

The eyes differ greatly in size, sometimes in species which belong to the same genus. They are usually free from the surrounding shields, and are covered with a transparent disc, like a watch-glass, beneath which they move. In most of the Uropeltidæ the disc is confluent with the shields which surround the eye. The evolution of the transparent disc, or "spectacle" or "window," is not clearly known. The formation of a similar covering originating in the lower eyelid of some genera of Lizards (*Scincidæ*, *Lacertidæ*) is well known, and the investigations of Schwartz-Karsten (1933) present grounds for believing that the snakes have acquired it by the

same process Neher, on the other hand (1935), gives quite a different interpretation of it. The subject has also been discussed by Walls (1934) and Verrier (1936).

The pupil is usually circular or vertically elliptic, only in *Dryophis* and its allies is it horizontal. In some genera, such as those of the *Trachischium-Opisthotropis* group, it may be round or vertically elliptic, and it is often difficult to decide which to call it. The variation appears to depend upon the form of contraction at the time of death. In the Boidæ, the Viperidæ, and in *Boiga* it is very distinctly vertical, and is capable of contracting to a mere slit.

The presence of a round or vertical pupil is not necessarily correlated with diurnal and nocturnal habits. The Kraits (*Bungarus*) and Cobras (*Naja*) with round pupil are crepuscular and nocturnal, as are the Freshwater Snakes (*Hemalopsis*); on the other hand, many of the Vipers (*Vipera*, *Ancistrodon*), although seeking their food at night, do not shun the daylight. *Dryophis* with a horizontal pupil is strictly diurnal, and owing to the pointed character of its snout is said to have binocular vision.

Abercromby (1922) has stated that the sight of snakes is not good in the daytime, even in the case of diurnal snakes with round-pupilled eyes; and that those snakes that hunt their prey instead of waylaying it, do so chiefly by means of the tongue. I have not observed this myself in snakes of diurnal habits, but have noticed it frequently in nocturnal snakes with round-pupilled eyes. Cobras that I have kept in captivity always had the greatest difficulty in seizing their food in daylight. Even such slow moving creatures as toads were struck at and missed time and again before they were finally seized.

An interesting point concerning the vision of snakes has recently been brought forward by Walls (1931). He discovered that the lens of the eye was yellow in certain species, colourless in others, and found that he could correlate the difference in colour with diurnal and nocturnal habits. The yellow coloration, when present, is an adaptation for the improvement of visual acuity in daylight. The subject is worth further investigation, particularly in such genera as *Bungarus*, which combine nocturnal habits with a round pupil.

The Ear.

Snakes have neither external ear-opening, tympanum, tympanic cavity, nor eustachian tube. The auditory apparatus consists of a bony or semicartilaginous rod, the stapes or columella auris, which extends from the fenestra ovalis in the cranium to the quadrate bone. Its attachment to the former is by means of the "foot"; to the quadrate it is loosely

connected by ligamentous tissue so that considerable play is possible. Owing to its extreme slenderness this bone is usually lost when preparing skulls. It is difficult to say how

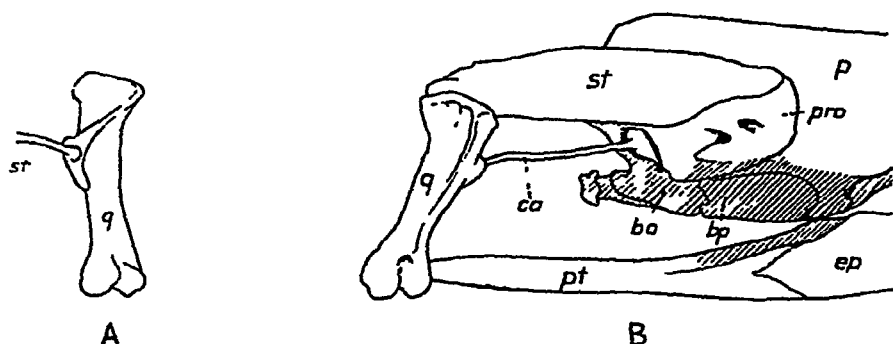


Fig 1 —Ear-bones of *Python reticulatus*.

- A. Attachment of stapes, *st*, to quadrate *q*, seen from the inside.
 B Auditory apparatus, seen from the right side *bo*, basioccipital; *bp*, basisphenoid, *ca*, columella auris or stapes, *ep*, ectopterygoid (or transpalatine), *p*, parietal; *pro*, prootic, *pt*, pterygoid; *q*, quadrate, *st*, supratemporal

much this lack of auditory apparatus has affected their hearing, or whether they have any compensatory mechanism to make up for it, but that they can hear very well is indisputable

The Tongue and Jacobson's Organ.

The tongue is mainly an organ for smell, and the constant quiver and play of it that we know so well, is for the purpose of collecting scent-particles, which are then passed on to Jacobson's organ through the naso-palatine ducts. The organ lies in the roof of the mouth, enclosed in a cavity formed by the turbinal bone above and the vomer below. It is usually deeply pigmented. It is innervated by the vomero-nasal nerve, a thick trunk of fibres, a special outgrowth of the olfactory bulb (figs 7, C and 44, C).

The Scales of the Body.

The scales on the body are usually imbricate and form straight longitudinal and oblique transverse series. Wall has called them "costal," but the word "dorsal" is a much older one and equally descriptive. The longitudinal series in the great majority of snakes are disposed in odd numbers; in *Zaocys* they are in even numbers; in the aquatic *Acrochordus* and in the Sea Snake *Kolpophis annandalei* they are very small and more or less granular in form, and an exact count difficult.

The scales vary considerably in shape. They may be long and narrow, with pointed tips, as in *Ahætulla* and *Dryophis*, broad and leaf-like in shape as in some species of *Trimeresurus*, as broad, or nearly as broad, as long, as in *Ptyas* and *Zaocys*, with every gradation between these extremes, in the majority of species the outer row or rows are larger than the others, in most of those that have suffered reduction in the number of scale-rows, e g, *Calamaria*, *Dryocalamus*, and *Blythia*, the scales are of equal size. In some genera, e g, *Boiga*, *Ahætulla*, and *Bungarus*, the vertebral series are enlarged. In some species of *Natrix* the tips of the scales are bidentate. Very little attention has been paid to the size and shape of the dorsal scales, and they are worth a closer study.

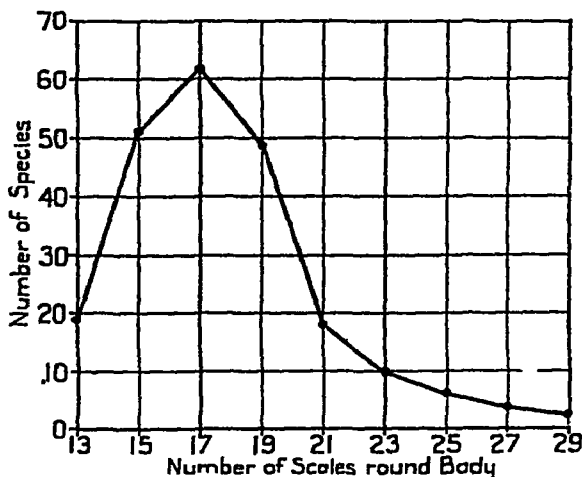


Fig. 2.—Chart showing the variation in the number of scale-rows in the Colubridæ

The scales may be smooth or feebly or strongly keeled, the keels are usually stronger in the males than in the females, in both sexes they are often stronger in the posterior part of the body than in the anterior. Those of the Natricine group of the Colubridæ are more strongly keeled than are those of the Colubrine. Dermal ossifications are unknown in snakes.

The apical pits are minute impressions near the tips of the scales, they may be single, as in *Ahætulla*, or paired, as in *Elaphe*, sometimes both forms are to be found in the same snake. In some species they are easily seen, in others they can only be found by careful search. A poor impression is better seen on a dried scale than on a wet one, to have it in the right light is also important. The significance of these pits is not known, their systematic importance is slight, but

it should not be ignored. In some cases they are of value in defining a genus, as in *Contia* and *Liopeltis*, in others they are useless as a generic character.

The number of scale-rows round the body varies considerably. The lowest is 13 (*Dryocalamus*, *Liopeltis*, *Calamaria*), the greatest is in *Python* (65–75), *Kolpophis* (74–93), and *Acrochordus* (130–150). The majority of the Colubridæ have 15, 17 or 19 rows at mid-body, and the accompanying graph, showing the variation, is based on the species described in this volume.

The maximum number of scale-rows in the majority of snakes is at mid-body, and in most there is a reduction as the vent is approached. Considerable attention has been paid in recent years to the manner in which this reduction occurs. It may take place by absorption of the vertebral rows or of those on the sides of the body, usually the 3rd or 5th. As an addition to the description of a species the point is of value; very occasionally it may help in the differentiation of two closely allied species, as in *Coluber ventromaculatus* and *C. rhodorhachis*, that it has any higher systematic value is doubtful. The number of scale-rows at mid-body is of much greater importance than at any other part of the body. When counts are made at the neck or hinder part of the body they should not be rigidly confined to any particular distance behind the head or in front of the vent.

The ventral shields or gastrosteges are the enlarged scales along the mid-line of the belly. They are usually transversely enlarged, much broader than long, and occupy the whole or nearly the whole width of the belly. In the Freshwater Snakes (Homalopsinæ) they occupy about one-half the width of the body, whilst in *Xenopeltis*, the Uropeltidæ, and most of the Sea Snakes they are scarcely larger than the scales adjacent to them. In the Typhlopidae and Leptotyphlopidae they are not distinguishable as ventrals, the body being covered with uniformly-sized scales throughout.

In some genera, e.g. *Elaphe* and *Lycodon*, a lateral ventral keel is present, in the arboreal *Ahaetulla* and *Chrysopelea* the keel is strongly developed and is provided in addition with a notch on its posterior border.

The subcaudals or urosteges are usually disposed in pairs. In many species which are in no way related to one another, such as *Natrix*, *Bungarus*, and *Trimeresurus*, some or all of the subcaudal shields may be single. The reduction usually starts at or near the vent.

The number of ventral and subcaudal shields is of considerable specific value. Owing to the shorter tail, the number of caudals is often less in the female than in the male. In some species this sexual distinction in caudal count is very marked.

e g *Trimeresurus* and *Calamaria*, and has systematic importance. The number of the ventral and subcaudal shields corresponds closely to the number of vertebræ, and therefore to the number of the somites or segments of the body.

The anal shield, the shield that covers the vent, may be divided or entire; as with the subcaudals, the paired condition is the more primitive.

Picardo (1931), Holtzinger-Tenever (1935), and Pockrandt (1937) have drawn attention to the fact that the microscopic structure of the scales can show valuable specific characters.

The Umbilicus.

The umbilicus is situated on the posterior part of the belly from six to ten heads lengths in front of the vent. It is a long slit-like scar, and occupies from two to four ventral scales. The scar is visible for some months after birth and affords a means of distinguishing very young snakes from older ones. Beddard (1907) has pointed out that in the *Viperidæ* the position of the umbilicus appears to have some taxonomic value.

Vestigial Limbs.

No snake has a pectoral arch or even vestiges of it, but vestiges of the pelvis are found in the primitive families as shown in the Key (p. 39). The vestigial bone, usually regarded as the femur, which has persisted in the *Boidæ* and

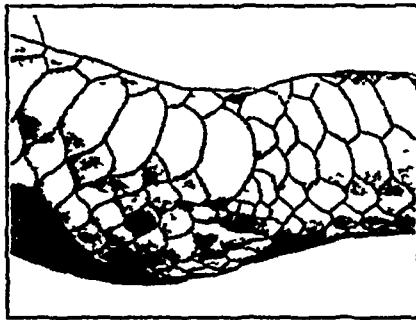


Fig. 3 — Photograph of anal region of *Python molurus*, shewing vestigial hind limbs

Aniliidæ, terminates in a claw-like spur and lies in a rounded hole or depression on each side of the vent. In some, especially in the males, it projects beyond the opening, and can be easily seen, in others it is more deeply hidden, and must be searched for.

The Vertebral Column.

The presence or absence of hypapophyses on the posterior dorsal vertebræ has long been recognized as a character which divides the Colubridæ into two main groups, the Natricine with hypapophyses, and the Colubrine, or Coronelline, without

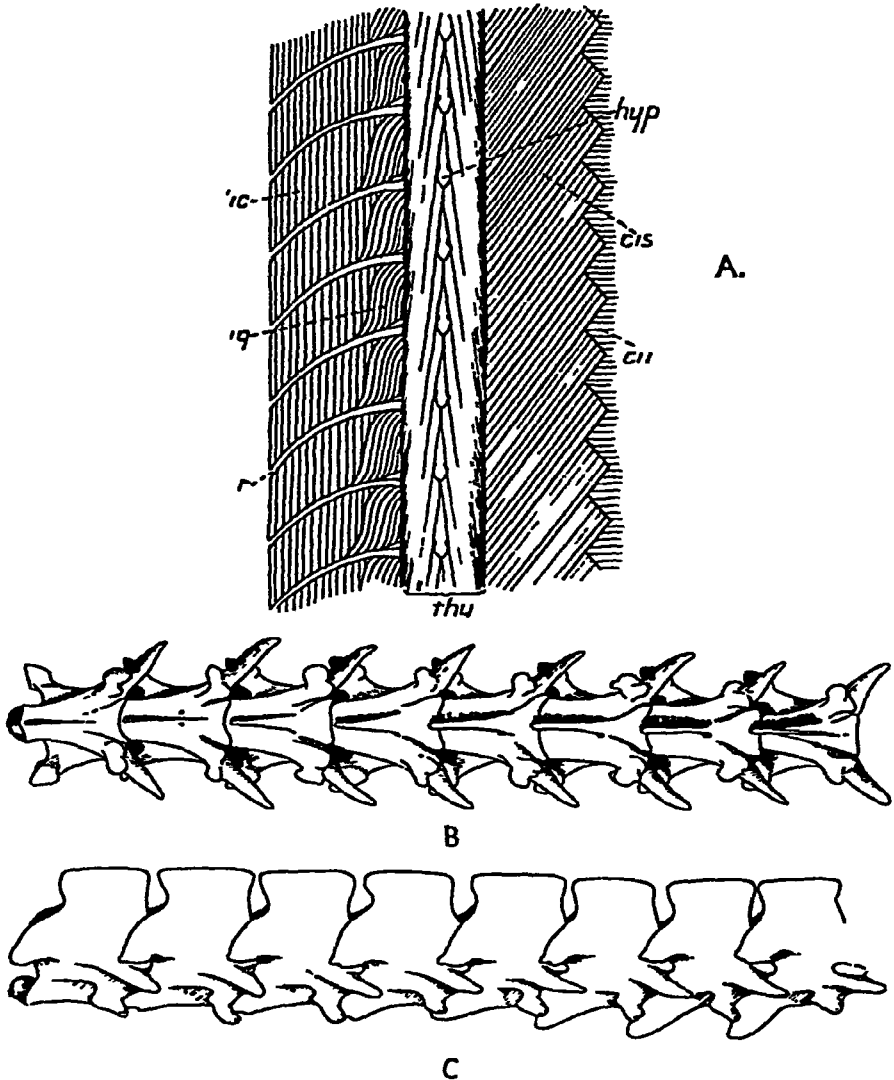


Fig 4—A Ventral view of body wall of *Natrix piscator*. The M costalis internus superior has been removed on the left side. B. Ventral, and C Lateral, view of anterior dorsal vertebræ of *Ptyas mucosus*, showing the change from the hypophysial to the anhypophysial area.

ci, M costalis internus inferior, cis, M costalis internus superior, hyp, hypapophysis of vertebra, ic, M intercostalis proprius, iq, M intercostalis quadrangularis, r, rib, thy, M transversohypapophyseus.

them. No account of these processes, however, can be complete that does not include the muscles—the *M. transverso-hypophyseus*—which are concerned with them. They can be seen at once by opening the belly along the mid-line and pushing the viscera aside, and form quite as effective a means of ascertaining the presence or absence of the processes as the bones themselves. As seen in *Natrix piscator*, the muscle consists of two conspicuous parallel bundles of fibres, one on each side of the vertebral line, the hypapophyses projecting between them. Each muscle arises from the anterior aspect of the transverse process of the vertebra, and, passing forwards and slightly inwards, is inserted by a flat tendon into the hypapophysis four segments anterior to it. Many additional fibres arise from the muscles which surround it. At any point, therefore, a transverse section through the whole bundle of fibres will include four muscles. "The action of the muscles when contracting simultaneously on both sides, is to flex the vertebral column ventrally, one side assists the epiaxial muscles of the same side in lateral flexion" (Mosauer, 1935). As seen in *Ptyas mucosus* the muscle is present only in the anterior one-fifth of the body. Its disappearance is effected rapidly by successive shortenings of the muscle and is completed in three or four segments of the body, it corresponds with the disappearance of the hypapophyses. No names have yet been given to describe these two great anatomical divisions, and it is convenient that we should have them. I propose the term **Hypophysia** for those with hypapophyses on the posterior dorsal vertebræ, and **Anhypophysia** for those without them. One would expect to find that the possession of the muscle in the Hypophysia would give them some advantage in movement over the Anhypophysia. I have so far failed to discover it.

Mosauer recognizes three main myological types among the Snakes, namely the Boidæ, the Colubridæ, and the Viperidæ.

The Hemipenis.

As already stated, snakes, like the lizards, have paired copulatory organs. These lie on either side of the base of the tail, forming distinct thickenings, so that with a little practice the sex can usually be determined without dissection, it is, however, not safe to rely on this. Each organ consists of a tube of erectile tissue, which can be everted like the finger of a glove. In pairing, only one organ is inserted at a time, but which one is immaterial, and depends upon the side the male happens to be at the time of copulation. The external opening for each hemipenis can be seen by lifting up the anal shield. The distal end of the organ is attached to a long

retractor muscle, and upon the state of contraction of this muscle at the time of death depends to a considerable extent the length of the hemipenis. To examine the organ a cut should be made along the mid-line of the tail, starting just behind the vent, the hemipenes will then be seen lying side by side. They are flattened on their inner sides, more rounded externally. The descriptions given in this volume represent one of the organs lying in its natural position. The sulcus spermaticus lies along the outer wall, and to see it best the cut which opens the organ is made longitudinally down the middle of the inner wall.

Cope in 1893 arranged a classification of the snakes based on the characters of the hemipenis, Dunn in 1928, modifying Cope's scheme, made a tentative classification of the American genera of the Colubridæ. After reviewing the Oriental material described in this volume, I find myself unable to base any major classification upon the organ. As a specific character it is most valuable, in many genera also it is remarkably constant, in others, such as *Trimeresurus* and *Oligodon*, it exhibits enormous variation, even in species which in other respects appear closely allied to one another (e.g. *Trimeresurus stejnegeri* and *T. popiorum*).

In the character of the penial structure, the more generalized families of snakes approach the Sauria. In them the organ is short and thick, with convoluted folds or plicæ and without spines (*Uropeltis grandis* excepted). Evolution has led to the formation of calyces, spines, and deep bifurcation. The transition from one type to another, such as the development of spines from the non-spinous (papillose) form, or vice versa, or the production of calyces from the plicate form, is, I believe, a comparatively small step.

The descriptions of the hemipenis in this volume have been written at different times during the last five years, and, in the absence of any standardized method, will be found to vary considerably in pattern. Many of them, based on poorly preserved material, will also need revision.

The Anal Gland.

—The anal glands, anal pockets, or cloacal glands, as they are also called, are sausage-shaped structures, that lie on either side of the base of the tail and open at a right angle by a constricted orifice immediately behind the vent. They are smaller in the male than in the female. They vary considerably in size in different species and genera, in *Bonga* they are unusually large. They have been mistaken, at times, for the hemipenis. Their secretion is custard-like in consistency, and varies in colour in different species, usually it is offensive in odour, but in some species is said to be not unpleasant.

The glands are active at all seasons of the year. Noble (1937), working upon the secretion of the glands in North American snakes, came to the conclusion that the scent had no hedonic use.

The Glands of the Head.

Our knowledge of the glands of the head is still very imperfect. In their number, form, position, and degree of

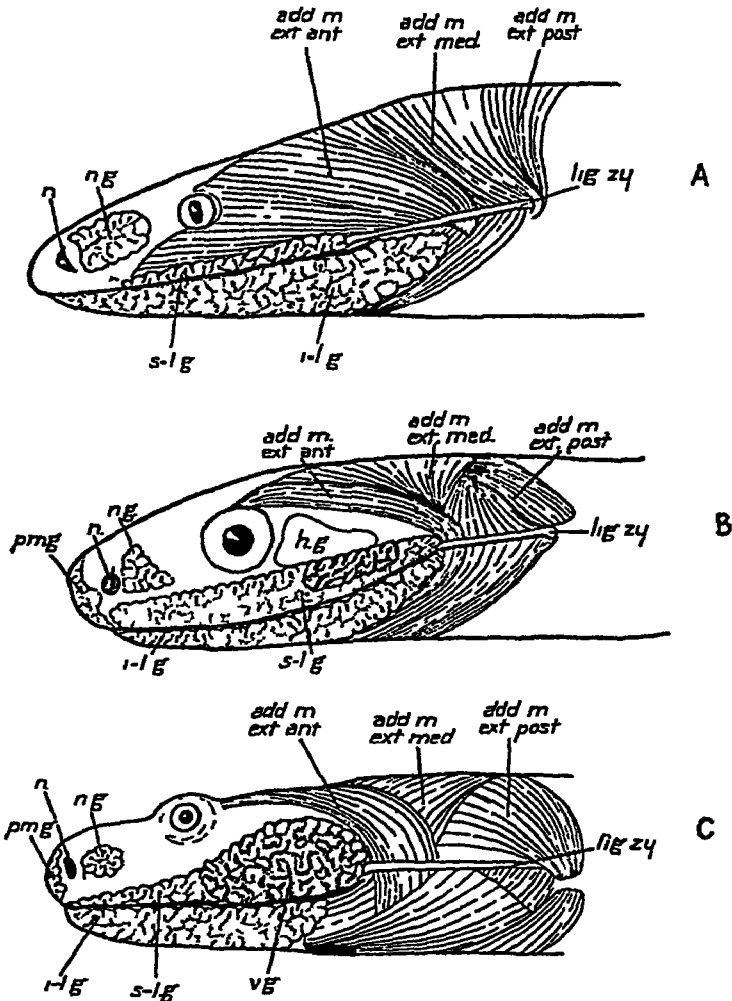
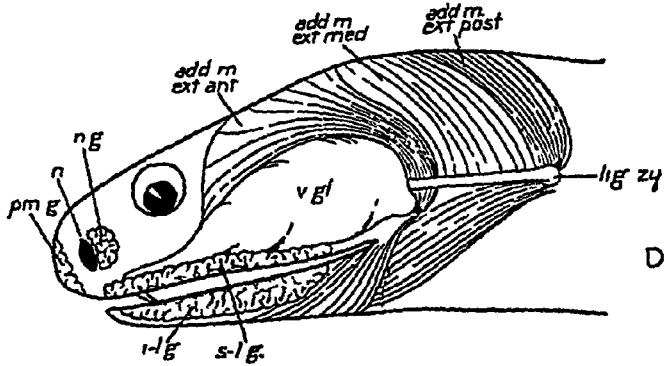
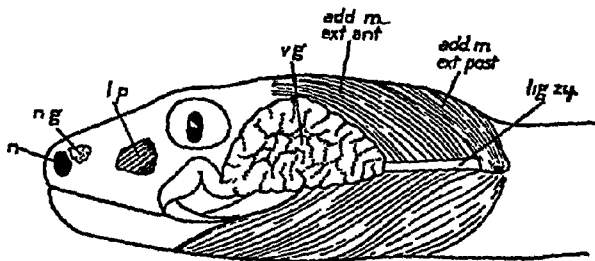


Fig 5 —The glands of the head : A. *Xenopeltis unicolor* B *Ptyas mucosus* C *Cerberus rhynchops* D *Naja naja* E *Trimeresurus erythrus* The supralabial gland, much reduced in the vipers, is not shown F *Coluber fasciolatus* G Inner view of parotid and supralabial glands of *Boiga cynodon*, left side The anterior prolongation of the supra-labial gland is not shown.

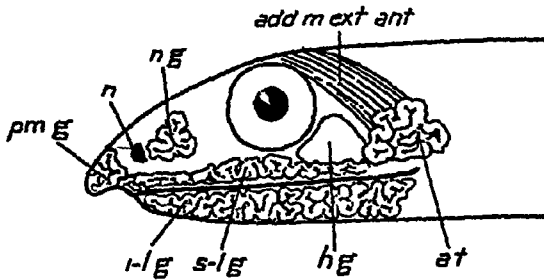
add m ext ant, adductor mandibulæ externus anterior, *add m ext med*, adductor mandibulæ externus medium, *add m ext post*, adductor



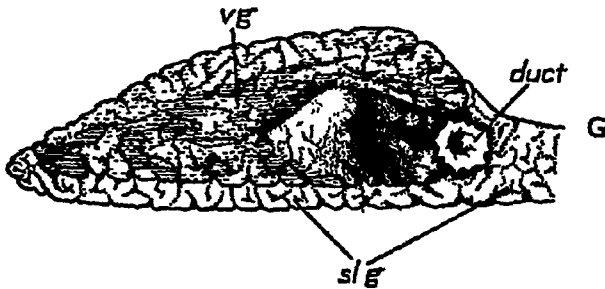
D



E



F



G

mandibulae externus posterior, *at*, anterior temporal gland;
duct, duct of venom gland, *hg*, Harderian gland; *i-l g*, infra-
labial gland; *lig zy*, ligamentum zygomatum; *n*, nostril;
ng, nasal gland; *pm g*, premaxillary glands; *s-l g* supra-
labial gland; *v g*, venom gland

development they vary greatly, sometimes in species in the same genus. It is astonishing indeed, considering the size of the head, how much of it is occupied by them. Much more material is needed than is at present available before we can undertake a comprehensive survey of the head-glands of any one group. Sarkar (1923), Haas (1931), and Prater (1933) have contributed to our knowledge of the salivary glands in the non-poisonous snakes. An excellent summary of the properties of the venom of the poisonous snakes of India has been given by Wall (1928).

Smith and Bellairs have also reviewed the subjects, dealing with all the glands of the head (in prep.)

The accompanying figures show the glands of the head. The following can be recognized. A supralabial, a parotid, originally derived from the supralabial, a premaxillary or intermaxillary, also derived from the same gland, an inferior labial, a nasal, an anterior temporal, a Harderian, a sublingual. The supra- and infralabials, the premaxillary, the nasal and, probably, also the anterior temporal, are salivary glands, they discharge their secretion into the mouth. The parotid in all the Opisthoglypha and in most of the well-developed Aglypha, is recognizable as a gland distinct from the supralabial by its slightly darker coloration (in spirit specimens). It discharges its secretion by a separate duct into a sac at the base of the maxillary teeth (fig 5, G). The anterior temporal is a small flat gland at the gape of the mouth, its duct opening on the margin of the lip beneath the last supralabial scale. When poorly developed and hidden by the ligamentum zygomaticum, it can be easily overlooked. It is not present in all snakes. As far as my examination goes*, it is present in the Typhlopidae, Anolidæ, some of the Boidæ (*Eryx*), and some of the Colubridæ. Thus in *Coluber* and *Lytorhynchus* it is large and well developed, whereas in *Ptyas* and *Elaphe* it is small and poorly developed. In *Natrix* it appears to be absent, as it is in the Homalopsinæ, Elapidæ, and Viperidæ. The Harderian gland serves the eye, the nasal cavity, and Jacobson's Organ. In shape and size it varies enormously in different species. It consists of a flattened, branched, intraorbital portion and an extraorbital one which extends posteriorly beyond the post-frontal bone. This portion may or may not be visible on removing the skin, in most snakes it is hidden beneath the adductor mandibulæ externus anterior. The labial glands are strongly adherent to the skin, and care must be taken in dissection that they

* The citation of a family or genus does not mean that I have examined all the species contained in it.

are not removed with it. The evolution of the venom gland is sketched on pp 12-13

Kellaway (1937) and Tait (1938) have shown that complete extirpation of the venom gland does not have any apparent effect upon the health of the snake

The Vertebral Glands.

The nucho-dorsal, or vertebral, glands (Nakamura, 1935 and Smith, 1938) occur, as far as we know at present, only in some members of the genus *Natrix*, and in the closely allied genera *Macropisthodon* and *Balanophis*. They are present in the neck and may extend the whole length of the body and on to the base of the tail. There are two types, namely, a sacculated one composed of chains of spherical structures, and a non-sacculated one, the gland being composed of a single elongated piece of tissue.

In the first type the gland is composed of paired spherical or oval structures arranged in regular chains on either side of the vertebral line. The scales of the neck of that region are more or less distinctly modified in shape and size. The gland commences on the back of the head, a few millimetres behind the parietal shields; the first ten to twenty pairs are the largest, and these are closely apposed to one another, the succeeding glands, when they occur, are more widely separated. This type of gland is found in *Natrix himalayana*, *N. subminata*, *N. nigrocincta*, *N. callichroma*, and *Macropisthodon plumbeicolor*.

In the second type the scales of the neck are not altered, but on stretching the skin of that part, two elongated, naked areas can be found. The gland is a continuous piece of tissue 10 to 20 mm in length and lies immediately beneath the naked skin. This type of gland is found in *Balanophis ceylonicus*, and in the Malayan members of the genus *Macropisthodon*. *Natrix callichroma* differs in having the sacculated type, but the external skin characters of the non-sacculated type.

The gland is attached to the skin, and comes away with it when that is stripped from the body. It has neither lumen nor duct. Its secretion is formed by the breaking down of the glandular tissue, and is discharged externally by rupture of the skin covering it. It is an irritant to mucous membranes, but it is doubtful if its purpose is merely defensive. It may be concerned with courtship. In what has been termed the *Natrix* type of courtship, the male rubs his chin along the back of the female. The fact that the species in which this habit has been recorded do not possess the gland does not necessarily invalidate the theory.

The Nasal Cavity,

The nasal cavity is a large chamber extending from the tip of the snout to the anterior wall of the orbit. Into it project, from before backwards, the nasal pad, the bony capsule of Jacobson's organ, and the nasal gland, the three combining to

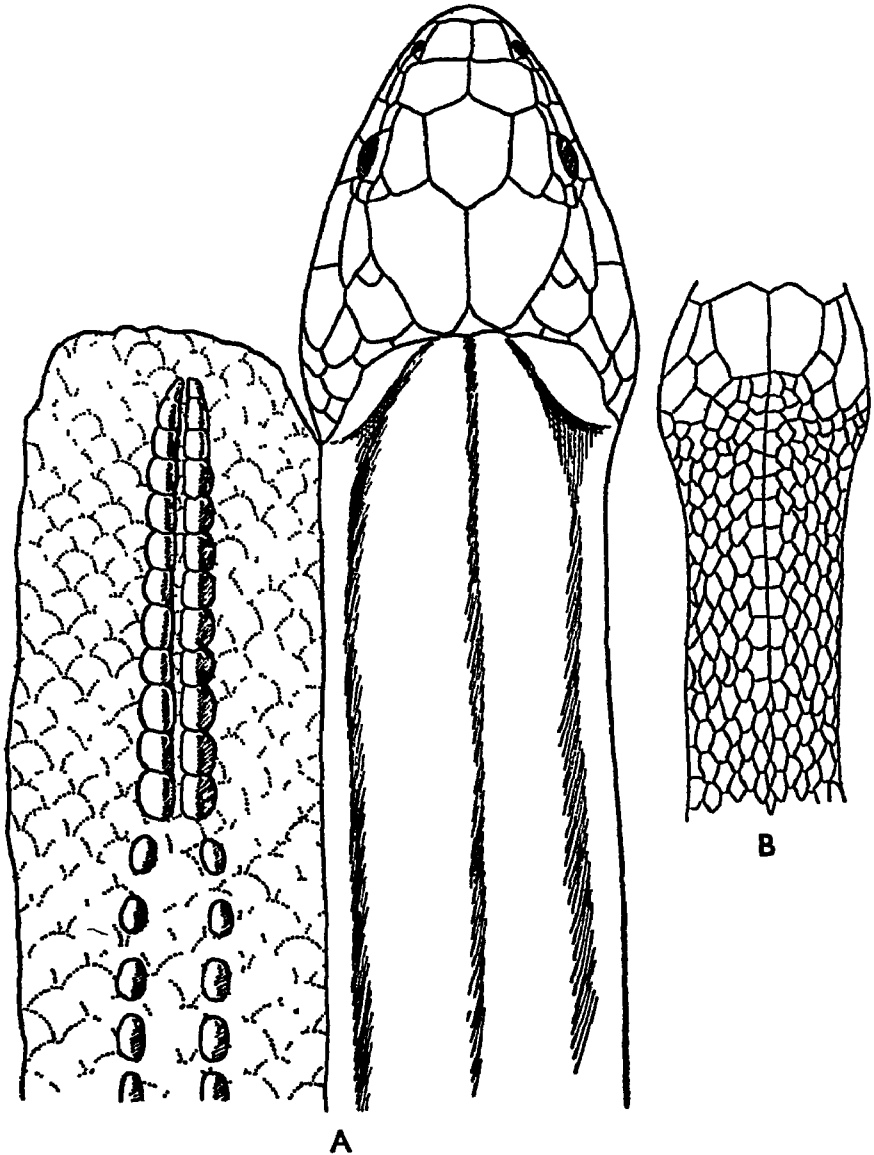


Fig 6 —A. Dissection of neck of *Natrix nuchalis* showing vertebral glands B Enlarged nuchal scales, of *Natrix nuchalis* (after Smith)

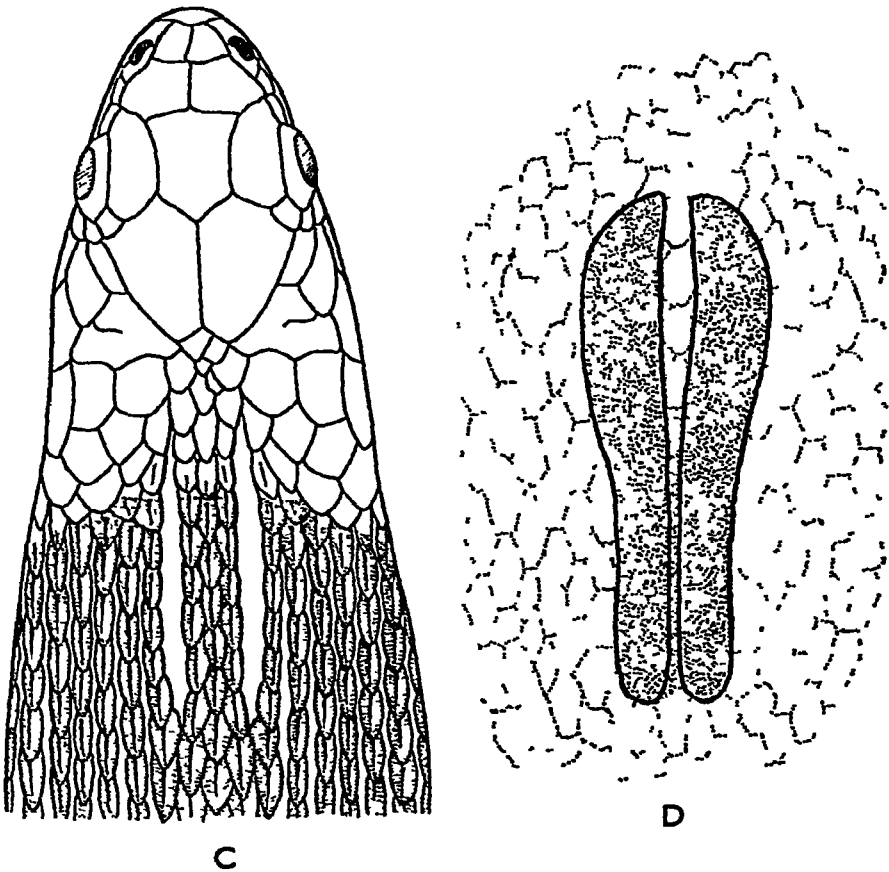


Fig 6—C Neck of *Macropisthodon flaviceps*, showing areas of naked skin D Nuchal gland of *M. rhodomelas* as seen by reflecting the skin The dotted lines indicate the scales seen through the skin (after Smith, P Z S 1938)

produce a sinuous passage when viewed from above (fig 7, A) The cavity is lined throughout by the olfactory membrane and differs therefore from the nasal cavity of lizards (e g , *Lacerta*), which is divided into two vestibules, only the posterior of which is covered by olfactory membrane

Of the three structures, the nasal pad shows the greatest variation Mesially it is covered by the nasal cartilage, externally it forms the posterior wall of the nasal aperture and has a slit-like or rounded opening which leads into an interior chamber As thus briefly described, it can be seen in the well-developed Colubridæ and higher families, but there are many modifications.

In the Homalopsinæ, the nostril is a crescentic slit on the upper surface of the snout and the pad projects from its

hinder margin The opening into the interior of the pad is large, and is directed straight forward The whole pad can

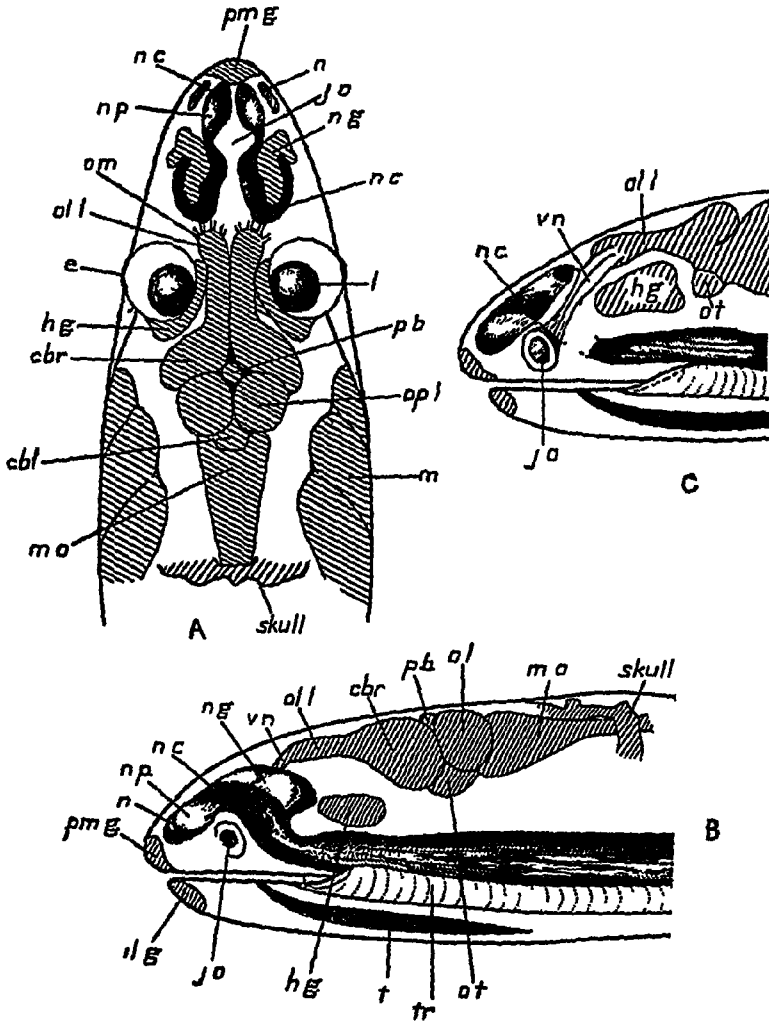


Fig 7—A Horizontal and B & C Sagittal section through the head of *Ptyas mucosus* To show the various structures properly, the sections have been made at various levels

cbl, cerebellum cbr, cerebrum, e, eye, hg, Harderian gland, oll, infralabial gland, jo (B & C) Jacobson's organ, jo (A) position of Jacobson's organ, l, lens, m, muscle, mo, medulla oblongata, n, nostril, nc, nasal cavity, ng, nasal gland, np, nasal pad, om, cut fibres leading to olfactory membrane, ot, optic tract, oll, olfactory lobe, opl, optic lobe, pb, pineal body, pmg, premaxillary gland; t, tongue, tr, trachea, vn, vomero-nasal nerve

be distended and thus forms an effective valve. Closure of the nasal cavity is further effected by the glottis, which fits into the internal nares.

In the *Acrochordinae* closure of the cavity has been effected in an entirely different manner. The nostril is circular and directed more or less forwards. There is no valve anteriorly, but closure is made by a cartilaginous flap in the roof of the mouth directed backwards and covering the internal nares.

In the *Sea Snakes* (*Laticauda* excepted, in which the nostrils are lateral) the pad springs from the anterior margin of the nostril. It consists of dense, spongy tissue and has no external orifice. As in the *Homalopsinae* additional closure is made by the glottis.

In the vipers *Pseudocerastes* and *Eristocophis*, in which the nostril is directed mainly forwards, the pad divides it into two parts. The lower opening leads into the nasal cavity proper, the upper into a small sac or pocket which has been called the supranasal sac. This lies immediately beneath the skin of the upper part of the head, behind the nostril (fig 155, B), and can be seen without dissection by lifting up the skin over the upper aperture. Schmidt (1930), who first discovered this sac in *Pseudocerastes*, tentatively compares it with the loreal pit of the Pit Vipers. There can be little doubt that the pad is an adaptation to desert life and that its function is to act as a valve. The supranasal sac has been isolated in the process and probably serves no special purpose. The sac described by Parker (1932)* in *Bitis* is quite different. It is an extension outwards of the anterior portion of the nasal cavity with which it is continuous.

The nasal gland can be divided into two parts namely an external, which lies behind the nostril and can be seen on reflecting the skin and an internal, which lies within the nasal cavity. This inner portion is absent or vestigial in the aquatic snakes and in some others, e.g., *Dryophis*. Its secretion is discharged into the nasal cavity.

Sexual Variation.

Sexual dimorphism is not marked in snakes. Nevertheless, I believe that minute attention to detail will reveal characters that we do not know of to-day. The sexual variation in ventral and caudal count and in the carination of the dorsal scales has already been dealt with. In some genera (*Macropisthodon*, *Aspidura*, *Opisthotropis*) the dorsal scales of the male in the ischiadic region show strong, short keels or tubercles (fig 10, D, p 33). In *Aspidura* the shields covering the lower jaw, especially the genuals, show minute sensory tubercles (fig 106, p 335).

* J Linn Soc xxxviii. p 213

Sexual dichromatism is rare in snakes, and is never distinctive. A nuptial dress is unknown. Nor do the colour changes, depending upon psychological or psycho-physiological stimuli, which many lizards, particularly the Agamids and Iguanids, undergo during the breeding season, occur in snakes.

In the young the colour-pattern is usually more vivid than in the adult, and in old individuals the colour-pattern may be entirely, or almost entirely, lost. Those species (*Elaphe*, *Ophedrys*) which are entirely green in colour, are usually not green, but greyish or buff-coloured, at birth, but further information upon this point is needed. The change in colour is due to the absence of the blue, leaving only the yellow. In *Dryophis prasinus* the colour is variable, and entirely yellow or entirely green individuals are found living side by side. In *Elaphe oxycephala* the blue is absent from the tail, but not from the rest of the body. Some remarks on the evolution of colour-pattern will be found under *Natrix piscator*, p. 297.

The coloration and markings of a spirit specimen will stand out more clearly when it is immersed in a bowl of water.

Eggs and Young.

The majority of snakes lay eggs. They are oval in shape, and usually about twice as long as broad. In those species that have long and slender bodies, e.g., *Ahaetulla* and *Dryocalamus*, they may be as much as four times as long as broad. They are covered with a whitish or yellowish parchment-like skin which contains a small amount of lime. When laid, they adhere to one another by means of a sticky fluid secreted by the oviducts. Development of the embryo within the egg often begins before it is laid, in some it is well advanced before deposition. Viviparity, or the birth of living young, occurs in the Sea Snakes (*Hydrophidæ*), the Freshwater Snakes (*Homalopsinæ*), and occasionally in other genera. Weekes (1935) has shown that true placentation can be demonstrated in some of the Australian *Elapidæ*.

Oviparity and viviparity have no taxonomic significance. Closely allied species may produce young by either means, as in the genera *Ancistrodon* and *Trimeresurus*.

During development a considerable amount of water is absorbed by the "shell," so that there is an increase in size, particularly in girth. The number of eggs produced at one time by different species varies enormously. It ranges from three or four, to 72 (*Acrochordus javanicus*) and over 100 (*Python molurus*). Young mothers produce fewer eggs or young than those that are fully grown.

In oviparous species the embryo is provided with an egg-tooth to enable it to cut through and thereby release itself.

from the shell at the time of birth. It can be seen projecting from the lower border of the rostral shield. It is usually shed within a few hours of birth. In the viviparous species it is much reduced in size and often indistinct and may be shed even before birth.

Kopstein's recent work (1938) on the breeding habits of Javanese snakes has led to some interesting and remarkable discoveries. He found that sexual maturity is attained in some snakes much earlier than is generally believed. In *Natrix subminata* it was reached at 13 months, in *Ptyas mucosus* at 20 months, in *Pareas carinatus* at 11 months. He also discovered that it was possible to have successive layings of fertile eggs without remating. An isolated female *Boiga multimaculata* laid four eggs on May 3th, 1934, and four more on January 1st, 1935. From all the eggs young ones hatched, after that only unfertilized eggs were laid.



Fig 8 —Egg-tooth of *Elaphe melanura*
A Seen from below B Seen from the side

A female *Natrix subminata* laid five eggs on July 9th, 1934, five on October 2nd and five on November 15th. After that, only unfertilized eggs were laid. Recent observations by American writers (Trapido, Rahn and Hames 1940) show that the spermatozoa can be retained alive in the uterus for several months. Gestation periods as recorded must therefore be accepted with reserve. Copulation is not necessarily followed immediately by ovulation.

Habits.

These, in so far as they are known, are recorded under the species or genera concerned. Much however, remains to be done upon the subject. Of the mating and breeding habits of a large number of the species we know nothing. Wall's numerous notes upon the habits of Indian snakes have been freely drawn upon for these pages and it is due to him,

more than to any other person, that we know as much as we do Prater (1933) has written an interesting article, mainly upon the breeding habits of the Indian species

Observations upon courtship and the mating behaviour of snakes must necessarily be fragmentary, for the opportunities of observing them in nature can be only accidental Davis (1936) and Noble (1937) have added to the available data, and have reviewed the whole subject There is general agreement that the "data indicate that given types of courtship behaviour are common to related groups of species" (Davis)

Rivalry and combat between the males—a common occurrence in lizards—may also occur in snakes McCann (1935) has recorded it of the Indian *Ptyas mucosus*, and Fleay (1937) of the Australian Elapid, *Pseudechis porphyriacus*

The positions assumed for the two purposes are different In fighting, as McCann states "the snakes were entwined round one another like a twisted rope," and this posture is borne out by Fleay's photographs of the Black Snake The photograph of two Dhamans mating (Prater, 1933, p 469) is more like the attitude assumed when fighting

The majority of snakes are crepuscular or nocturnal in their wanderings Some species of *Elaphe*, *Coluber*, *Ptyas*, and *Natrix* may be found abroad at any hour of the day when in search of food, but, as far as my own observations go, only the members of the arboreal genera *Ahaetulla* and *Dryophis* really appear to revel in the tropical sunshine In northern latitudes in the tropics especially at the higher altitudes and during the winter months, many species come out to bask in the sun as they do in colder climates In the south the sun is too fierce for this practice, and, in fact, observations made in recent years upon Rattlesnakes in America (Mosauer & Lazier Swift Blum & Spealman 1933), and by Fraser in India upon different species (1936) show that direct tropical sunlight, even for a short period is fatal to them

Zoogeography.

The problem of zoogeography is to determine the origin or centre of dispersal of species, genera, families, groups, call them what you like, and to ascertain their range or distribution throughout the world Of the place of origin of many species and subspecies of snakes we are in no doubt They have arisen from pre-existing species in the regions they inhabit to-day Of the distribution of the families we are also clear, their characters are well defined, and there should be no difficulty in assigning any species to its place but of the place of origin of the widely distributed families we have no knowledge In dealing with genera it is quite different Some of them can be recognized as compact groups of species,

the majority are in the process of evolution, and through intermediates can be linked up with closely related genera. Their characters, in consequence, cannot be clearly defined. For the purpose of zoological distribution, the large and comprehensive genera of Boulenger are in some respects more instructive than the smaller and less clearly defined ones that we accept to-day.

The species which inhabit the area dealt with in this volume fall into two categories — I The species that inhabit the Oriental Region and which form the majority of those described. II Entrants from outside regions.

The long barrier of the Himalayas in the north and the extensive sea-boards of India and Indo-China in the south, leave only three points of entry. These are. —

1 The desert or semi-desert country of N W India which admits the fauna of S W Asia—the Irano-Turanian subregion of the Palearctic. The genera mainly concerned here are *Coluber*, *Conia*, *Lytorhynchus*, *Tarbophis*, *Psammophis*, and *Pseudocerastes*.

2 Entrants from China and Yunnan. As already stated in the general discussion on zoological areas (vol i p 14), the northern limit of Indo-China is not easily defined. The determining factor is climate, and in the absence of any natural boundary an arbitrary one has to be drawn. The mixing of Chinese and Indo-Chinese faunas in consequence is more general. Four genera may be mentioned in connection with this region, namely, *Dinodon*, the Chinese representative of *Lycodon*, *Pseudoxenodon*, derived from *Natrix*, but now with more species in China than in Indo-China, *Achalinus*, mainly Chinese, and closely related to the Indo-Chinese *Fimbrios*; and the Viper *Azemops ferox*.

3 Entrants from the Malayan Region. The southern limit of the Indo-Chinese subregion is at the Isthmus of Kra. The mountain range which forms the backbone of the Peninsula at this point divides it into two distinct areas, namely, a wet and heavily forested country on the West, and a much drier and less heavily forested one on the East. The climatic conditions on the West are Malayan, and in consequence the northward extension of species from Malaya has been much farther on this side than on the other.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands belong to the Indo-Chinese subregion. All the evidence that we have, both geological and faunal, indicates that they are a continuation of the mountain range of the Arakan Yomas extending southwards from Cape Negrais in Lower Burma, and were at one time a part of the continental shelf that included also Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and a part of the Philippines.

List of the Species

No	Species	Andaman Is.	Nicobar Is.	Indi- genous	Distribution outside Andaman and Nicobar Is.
1	<i>Typhlops braminus</i>	+	+	no	Oriental Region, Africa East Indian Is. and Is. of Indian Ocean
2	<i>Typhlops oatesi</i>	+	—	yes	—
3	<i>Typhlops andamanicus</i>	+	—	yes	—
4	<i>Xenopeltis unicolor</i>	—	—	no	Indo-China, Malaysia
5	<i>Ptychocheilus reticulatus</i>	—	+	no	Indo-China, Malaysia
6	<i>Acrochordus granulatus</i>	—	+	no	Indo-China, Malaysia MARINE
7	<i>Elaphe ocyrocephala</i>	+	+	no	S Indo-China, Malaysia
8	<i>Elaphe flavolineata</i>	+	+	no	Tenasserim, Malaysia
9	<i>Ptyas mucosus</i>	+	—	no	India, Indo-China
10	<i>Liopeltis nicobariensis</i>	—	+	yes	—
11	<i>Oligodon woodmasoni</i>	+	+	yes	—
12	<i>Ahaetulla alata</i> <i>Ahaetulla andamanica</i> ?	+	—	yes	—
13	<i>Ahaetulla cyanochloris</i>	+	—	no	Indo-China
14	<i>Chrysopolea ornata</i> *	+	+	no	Indo-China, Malaysia
15	<i>Lycodon aulicus</i>	+	—	no	Indo-China, Malaysia
16 a	<i>Natrix piscator piscator</i>	+	—	no	India, Java
16 b	<i>Natrix piscator melanozostis</i>	+	—	yes	—
17	<i>Natrix nicobariensis</i>	—	+	no	Burma
18	<i>Boga ochrocea walli</i>	+	+	no	Ceylon, S India
19	<i>Boga ceylonensis</i>	+	—	no	Indo-China, Malaysia
20	<i>Cerberus rhynchops</i>	+	+	no	Indo-China, Malaysia MARINE
21	<i>Forodon leucobata</i>	—	+	no	Indo-China, Malaysia MARINE
22	<i>Cantoria violacea</i>	+	—	no	India, Indo-China
23	<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>	+	—	no	Indo-China
24.	<i>Naja naja kaouthia</i>	+	—	no	India, Indo-China
25	<i>Naja hannah</i>	+	—	no	—
26	<i>Trimeresurus cantori</i>	?	+	yes	—
27	<i>Trimeresurus purpurimaculatus andersoni</i>	+	+	yes	—
28	<i>Trimeresurus albolabris</i>	+	+	no	Indo-China, Malaysia
29	<i>Trimeresurus labialis</i>	+	+	yes	—

* or *paradis*, not seen by me

For so small an area they are remarkably rich in the variety of their species, 6 families and 19 genera being represented. Isolation could account for the large number of indigenous forms. Of the 29 species of snakes listed, 9 are peculiar to the islands, and 2 more, namely, *Natrix piscator* and *Bungarus caeruleus*, although listed under the name of the form that inhabits India, are not quite typical and could well have been derived from an ancestor inhabiting the Indo-Chinese subregion. The status of *Borja ceylonensis* is doubtful. That Indo-China and not Malaysia was the main source from which they received their ophidian fauna is evident from a study of the accompanying list. For a fuller account of the herpetology of these Islands see Proc Linn Soc (Smith, 1941).

All the families of snakes inhabit the Oriental Region. The Typhlopidae, Leptotyphlopidae, Boidae, Colubridae, Elapidae and Crotalinae are cosmopolitan in their distribution, the Viperinae are confined to the Old World, and, as pointed out long ago by Boulenger, their distribution accords closely with that of the Lacertidae. The Uropeltidae and Xenopeltidae are peculiar to the Oriental Region; the Aniliidae and Dipsadinae to-day inhabit the Oriental and Neotropical regions. The Hydrophiidae being marine, and with greater facilities for dispersal, cannot be judged like the land snakes. They range from S E Asia to Australia and Polynesia, but the majority inhabit the Oriental seas. Of the 16 genera recognized to-day, 13 are found in Oriental waters. The Dasypeltidae, confined to two genera and three species, are highly specialized for their particular mode of life. They inhabit Africa and Northern Bengal.

The foregoing remarks on the families will suffice also for their genera, except for the Colubridae. The natural groups into which this family can be arranged and their relationships with other genera throughout the World are discussed with the Key to the Colubrinae on p. 138.

Three other points in connection with zoogeography deserve mention.

1 The families, subfamilies, and genera which occur in the Oriental and Neotropical Regions, but are absent from other parts of the World. These are the Aniliidae, Dipsadinae, and Xenoderminae, and the genera *Trimeresurus* and *Sibynophis*. A close parallel to this distribution is to be found in the Microhylidae (Amphibia) but is not known in the Testudines or in the Sauria.

2 Five species inhabit Indo-China and the large islands of Malaysia—Borneo, Sumatra and Java—but are absent from the Malay Peninsula and Peninsular Siam. They are *Python molurus*, *Ptyas mucosus*, *Borja multumaculata*, *Vipera*

russelli, and *Trimelesurus albolabris*. Two genera, namely *Stoliczkaia* and *Opisthotropis*, carry this discontinuity in distribution even further north, being absent from the southern half of Indo-China. Many theories to account for this peculiar distribution have been put forward. They are concerned chiefly with the elevation and subsidence of land masses in that part of the world. Chasen (1935) recognizes two lines of dispersal from the mainland of Asia, one through the Peninsula, the other through Borneo from Indo-China.

3 In my volume on Lizards (p. 15) I commented on the affinities of the fauna of the Malayan Region with Ceylon and Southern India. Only one genus of snakes, namely *Cylindrophis*, has this distribution, being found in Malaysia, Indo-China, and Ceylon but not in Peninsular India.

Evolution and Classification.

Any sketch which deals with the evolution of the snakes and endeavours to trace their development from the primitive or generalized forms to the more advanced ones, must take into consideration certain fundamental changes in structure. The changes do not concern species, or genera, or even families, but may be regarded as trends in evolution which affect the whole suborder.

1. The ability of most snakes to swallow food much exceeding their own calibre is well known. This is possible because the bones of the skull concerned with deglutition are loosely attached to the cranium and freely movable on it. Setting aside the degenerate, and yet in some ways highly specialized, families of Typhlopidae, Leptotyphlopidae, and Uropeltidae, we find that in the most generalized families the bones of the skull are more or less solidly united, the supratemporal is intercalated in the cranial wall and the quadrate, which articulates with it, is short and vertically placed. In the more advanced families this rigidity has been overcome. The maxilla has been freed from the premaxilla, the prefrontals from the nasals, and in consequence the palato-maxillary arch is capable of considerable rotation outwards and forwards, each arch also can move independently of the other. The loosening and lengthening of the supratemporal, and the lengthening of the quadrate, an increase which is provided for by its extension backwards, has increased enormously the capacity of the jaw opening. This type of skull architecture is to be found in all the Colubridae and higher families. *Python*, as representing the most complete ophidian skull known, is here shown in greater detail than any of the others figured (see fig. 32, p. 104).

2 The evolutionary changes in the teeth are well known. They have resulted in specialization in structure, in the conversion of the solid-toothed (aglyphous) and uniform dentition of the primitive families, still persisting in many of the Colubridæ, to the grooved posterior teeth of the Opisthoglypha and the canaliculate fangs of the Elapidæ (Proteroglypha) and Viperidæ (Solenoglypha). The Oriental Colubridæ can be sharply divided into aglyphous and opisthoglyphous forms, and, as a ready method of identification, this character is invaluable. With some of the American genera this is not possible, transitional stages being present or absent in the same genus, sometimes even in the same species. As a means of expressing stages in evolution the terms Aglypha and Opisthoglypha are useful and convenient, and in that sense they are used in this volume. They have no taxonomic value. Thus, the nearest relative of the opisthoglyphous *Balanophis* is the aglyphous *Natrix*, of the opisthoglyphous *Chrysopelea*, the aglyphous *Ahetulla*.

Step by step with the specialization of the teeth, but not always keeping in step with it, has gone specialization of the supralabial gland. Its evolution into a venom gland is sketched in fig 5. In *Xenopeltis unicolor* it is a long strip of undifferentiated glandular tissue extending the whole length of the upper lip. In *Ptyas mucosus* a portion of the posterior part of the gland has become specialized, and can be distinguished, in preserved material, as a yellowish patch (outlined in the figure). Already in some of the opisthoglyphous Colubridæ its secretion when injected into them is toxic enough to kill small vertebrates. In *Cerberus rhynchops* the gland is clearly differentiated, both in colour and external lobulation, from the supralabial, and can, by dissection, be more or less completely separated from it.

In all the Opisthoglypha this gland is distinct from the supralabial, its secretion is strongly toxic to small vertebrates and many of them kill their prey by its means. The later stages in the evolution of the gland and its final development into the highly specialized organ of the Proteroglypha (Elapidæ) and Solenoglypha (Viperidæ) can only be conjectured. The origin of the Viperine fang through opisthoglyphous genera has been constructed by Boulenger (1896 and 1917. See also E. G. Boulenger, 1915 and Haas, 1938), of the origin of the Elapine fang we have no such indications. Boulenger's suggestion (1896) that it may have been derived from a snake with the *Boædon* type of dentition, in which some of the anterior teeth are enlarged and fang-like, is difficult to reconcile with our present knowledge of the evolution of the venom gland from the posterior part of the

supralabial The separate origins of the Viperine and Elapine fangs, which is suggested by their dentition, is shown also in the different physiological constitution and the action of the venoms Kellaway (1933) has pointed out, however, that the Australian Elapidæ may have the properties of both types

3 The changes in the vertebral column concern the hypapophyses of the dorsal vertebrae and the muscular structures connected with them The character was first employed by Cope and later by Boulenger, who, according to their presence or absence on the posterior dorsal vertebrae, arranged the genera of the Colubrinæ in two series (Cat Sn 1 p 170) Some later authors have carried this grouping farther and regard them as subfamilies, the Naticinæ—with processes—and the Coronellinæ—without them

Hæmal processes or hypapophyses are absent, except quite anteriorly, in the dorsal vertebrae of all primitive snakes as high as and including most of the Boidæ In some they are present in a few cervical vertebrae only, in others they extend as far as the anterior one-third of the body Hæmal processes, possibly homologous with the dorsal, are also present on the caudal vertebrae They are usually paired, and their musculature is quite different A similar condition is to be found in most of the families of the Sauria Hypapophyses are present throughout the vertebral column in all the poisonous snakes (Elapidæ, Hydrophidæ, Viperidæ) They vary in their degree of development, being stronger in the Viperidæ than in the Elapidæ

Between these two groups lies the great family of the Colubridæ, in which they may be present or absent The recent discovery of Brongersma (1938) that in the same genus, namely *Chrysopelea*, and possibly also in other genera, the processes may be present or absent, has upset our hopes that this character could be used to divide the Colubridæ into two distinct branches But because it fails in some genera there is no reason to abandon its use entirely Like the aglyphous and opisthoglyphous character of the teeth, it indicates stages in evolution, but not necessarily phylogenetic relationship As a character for the easy recognition of certain groups, it is most valuable

The arrangement of the families is given on page 39 The majority of them are well defined, and it is unlikely that further work will alter our definition of them The difficulty has always been, and still is, with the Colubridæ This huge family, whose numbers constitute some two-thirds of all the known species of snakes, cannot be divided further than genera except by the elimination of a few small subfamilies Certain

natural groups are evident and these are listed after the Key to the Colubridæ on pp 138-9 Many of the inclusions are tentative, and later authors will no doubt supplement and modify the arrangement given here

Preservation and Examination of Specimens.

For the preservation of snakes for Museum purposes, alcohol should be used whenever possible Formalin, which is now so often employed on account of its greater convenience

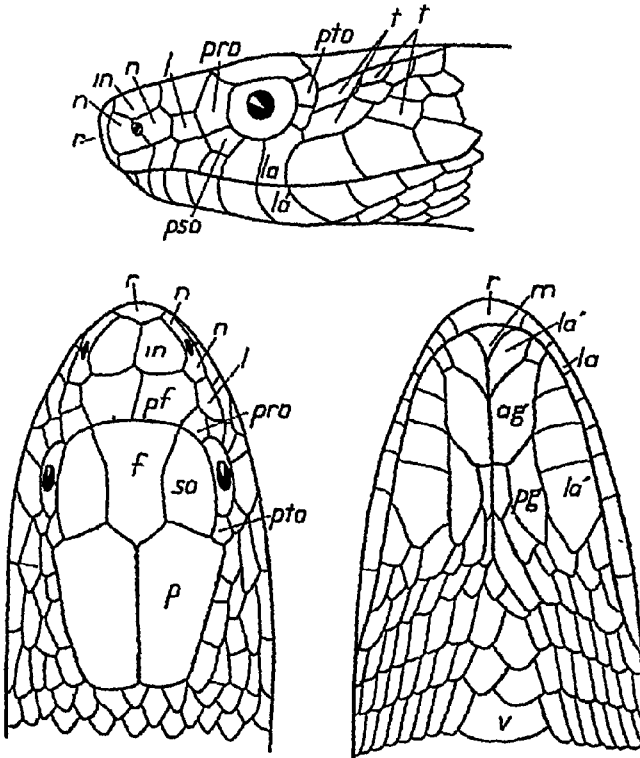


Fig 9.—Three views of the head of *Coluber ventromaculatus* to explain the terminology of the head shields.

anterior genuals (or chin shields), *f* frontal, *in*, internasal, *l*, loreal, *la*, supralabial, *la'*, infralabial, *m* mental (or symphysial), *n*, nasal, *p* parietal, *pf* prefrontal, *pg*, posterior genuals (or chin shields), *pro*, preocular, *pto*, presubocular, *pto*, postocular, *r*, rostral, *so*, supraocular, *t*, anterior and posterior temporals; *v*, first ventral

has many disadvantages Its chief one is its effect upon certain colours, in particular the greens, which become blackish, and in time quite black It tends also to "flatten out" the

blacks, browns and whites, so that their contrasts are diminished. The reds, on the other hand, are preserved, but only as long as the specimen remains in formalin. Specimens placed in strong formalin harden rapidly and ultimately become brittle.

Ordinary methylated spirit which can be bought from any pharmacist will do. This is usually 95 per cent alcohol and for use must be diluted with 1 part of water to 3 of spirit. The blue or red dye which is used to colour it will not affect the specimen, nor will the turbidity which is sometimes produced when water is added. It is most important that the preservative should penetrate into the body cavity as rapidly as possible, in fact, it can be laid down as an axiom that the excellence of a specimen depends upon its proper fixation in the first 24 hours. Some collectors inject their preservative with a hypodermic syringe. I believe better results are obtained by making a series of small incisions along the middle of the belly or at the outer margins of the ventrals. It is particularly important where the hinder gut lies, the digested food causing putrefaction very rapidly, incisions at this part, therefore, should enter the gut and not merely the abdominal cavity. The same spirit cannot be used indefinitely, every specimen added will reduce its alcoholic strength, and fresh (95 per cent) spirit must be added as required. If the strength is correct the specimen will become distinctly harder and more rigid within 24 hours, and will continue to stiffen for several days. To overcome this rigidity I have used manipulation of the specimen for a few minutes twice daily for the first three or four days of preservation. The results were excellent, the specimen remaining permanently flexible, like a freshly killed one.

Commercial formalin, the concentrated form which the collector would carry with him, is a solution containing approximately 40 per cent of formaldehyde, and this figure frequently gives rise to some confusion. It is usual to refer to a 3 to 5 per cent solution of *formalin* as the correct one for preservation, and these percentages refer to the commercial solution. A 5 per cent solution of *formalin* only contains 2 per cent *formaldehyde*, and a solution containing 5 per cent *formaldehyde* would be 12.5 per cent *formalin*, far too strong for normal preservation. Formalin on keeping is apt to decompose, with production of free acid, which is injurious to the specimen. To counteract this, borax or chalk should be added to neutralize the acid as it forms.*

* These remarks on formalin are taken from 'Instructions for Collectors, No. 3 Reptiles, Amphibians and Fishes' 5th Edition British Museum (Natural History)

There are many ways of killing a snake, and it need hardly be said that the less the specimen is damaged, the better. The simplest way, and a very effective one, is to break the spine a short distance behind the head by a blow with a stick. One blow should be sufficient, the body will continue to give convulsive movements for some time afterwards, but for all practical purposes the snake is dead. Small snakes, and many lizards and amphibians, are extremely susceptible to nicotine, and a few drops of it placed in the mouth will kill them almost instantaneously. A small bottle of nicotine for this purpose can be obtained from most pharmacists. Large snakes—over 8 or 10 feet in length—are too bulky to be preserved in the ordinary way. They must be skinned by cutting along the whole length of the belly, leaving the head, and if possible the tail, untouched. The skin can then be preserved in spirit in the ordinary way. Dried skins are not satisfactory for Museum purposes.

I have gone at considerable length into the question of the preservation of specimens, for it is one on which many collectors take little trouble. It is obvious that the better the specimen is preserved, the more complete can any examination of it be made afterwards.

Living colours should be noted. The reds and yellows usually fade rapidly in spirit, the browns and blacks remain. It is important to have the exact locality where a specimen was collected. If the place or village is not likely to be found on the map, its position with regard to the nearest town of note, or its position in Longitude and Latitude, should be given. Labels written in pencil will last well if they do not get chafed.

Descriptive Methods, etc.

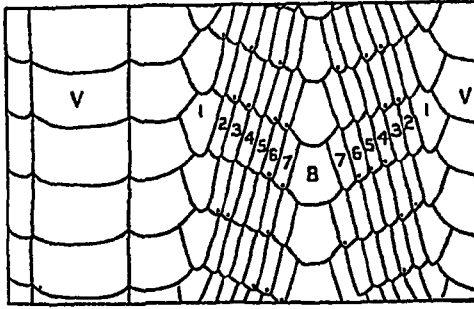
The descriptions are based on the material examined. They include the common variations, but not the unusual ones, which are regarded as aberrations. The ventral counts, as recorded by different authors, vary so greatly, that I have relied mainly on those specimens I have seen myself. A count which has been found or has been recorded as being well outside the normal variation, is placed in brackets beside what is regarded as the normal. When examining juveniles it is well to remember that in them the eye and the frontal shield are relatively larger than in the adult.

As regards the synonyms and references for genera and species, etc., this volume follows closely the procedure adopted for the two previous ones. For convenience they are repeated here.

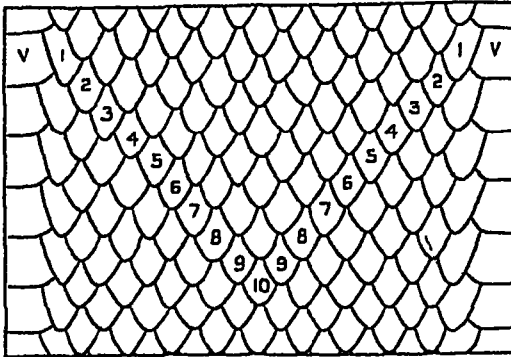
The references given are not intended to be in any way complete. They have been chosen in so far as they are relevant.

to the text, and to enable the reader to know where to look for further information

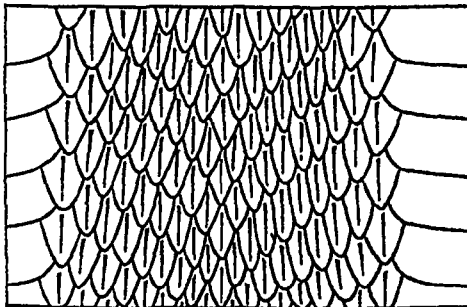
A scientific name in the synonymy when followed by an author's name without an intervening comma, and the date,



A

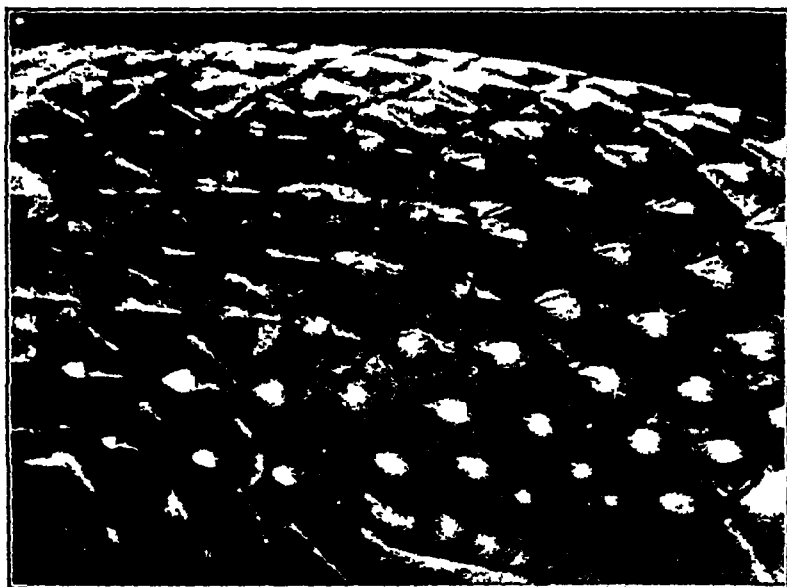


B



C

Fig 10 (A-C) —Scaling of the body of A *Ahætulla ahætulla* showing enlarged vertebral scales (8), the apical pits on the oblique dorsal scales, and the lateral keel of the ventral shields (v) B *Elaphe radiata*, showing normal scales C *Pseudozenodon macrops*, showing oblique scales



D

Fig 10(D).—Ischiadic region of ♂ of *P. macrops*, showing knobbed keels

refers to the first published mention of that name. In the case of a species the type-locality follows, and, if it is known, the name of the town in which the type is kept. A name followed by a comma and then the author's name indicates a reference subsequent to the original description. Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, refers to his volume of that date.

The list of common characters which follows the generic characters permits the descriptions of the species to be curtailed considerably. The generic characters cover the whole genus, the common characters apply only to the species described in this volume.

The International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature have been followed as far as their interpretation permits. It should be noted that Rule 19 was amended at the International Congress at Padua in 1930 in order to make the English version conform with the official French text*, and now reads as follows:—"The original orthography of a name is to be preserved unless an error of transcription (transliteration), a *lapsus calami*, or a typographical error is evident." The spellings of some disputed words therefore have been retained in accordance with classical procedure, e.g. *Ancistrodon* instead of *Agkistrodon*, *Aepyurus* instead of *Aipysurus*.

* Arch. Zool. Italiano, xvi, 1932, pp. 90, 91.

Tinomials are restricted to those varieties, races or subspecies that have well-defined characters, a restricted geographical range, and little or no intergradation with other races. Colour varieties that intergrade completely with others are listed in serial order. The typical pattern is described, and the names proposed for it by other authors are included.

English names are given only to those species that are common and widely distributed. To attach a name to every

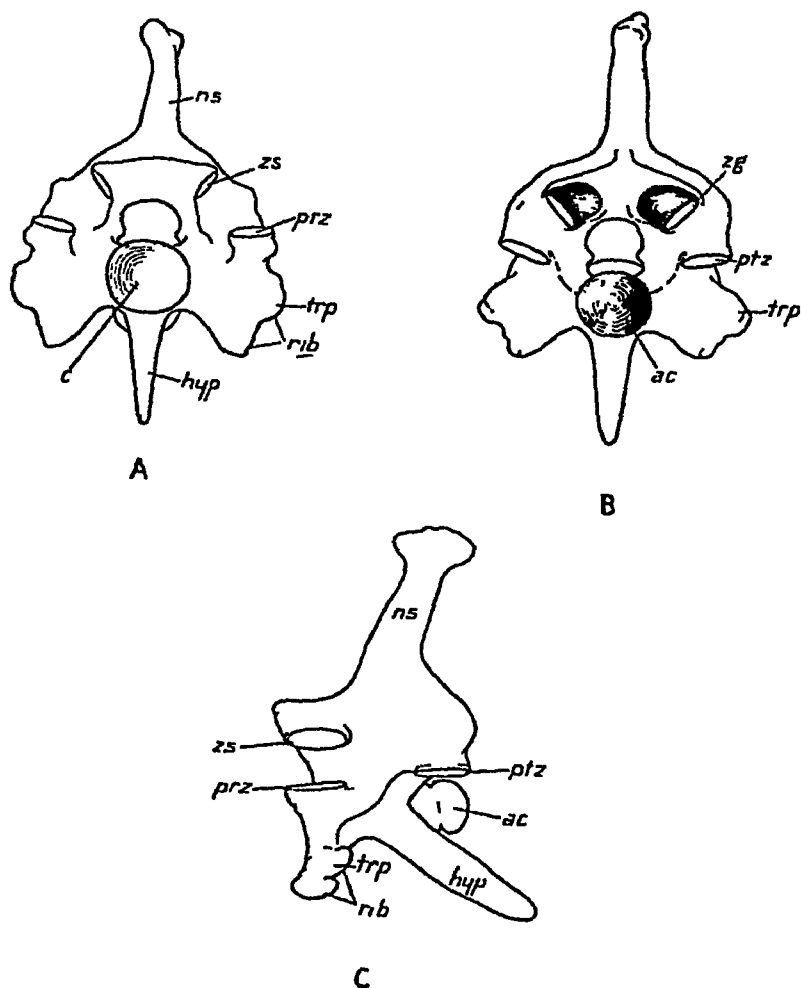


Fig 11 —A Anterior B Posterior, and C Lateral view of anterior dorsal vertebra of *Python reticulatus*

ac, articular surface for centrum, c, centrum, hyp, hypapophysis, ns, neural spine, prz, prezygapophysis, pfz, postzygapophysis, rib, furca for rib, trp, transverse process, zg, zygantrum, zs, zygosphenoid

species, many of which are known only from a few specimens is superfluous. For that reason I have not adopted all the names proposed by Wall. Some, owing to changes in nomenclature, are now inappropriate. The use of the name *Coluber*, for instance, when the genus which he calls *Coluber* is now known as *Elaphe*, would only cause confusion. In adopting the name *Racers* for the genera *Coluber* and *Elaphe*, I have taken one that has long been used in America for the same group.

The nomenclature of the head shields and the method of counting the dorsal scales are shown on the accompanying figures.

Unless otherwise stated in this volume, the upper head shields are understood to be normal, viz., to consist of a rostral, a pair of internasals, a pair of prefrontals, a frontal, a pair of supraoculars and a pair of parietals; on each side one or two nasals, a loreal, one or more pre- and postoculars, temporals and several labials.

The measurements given for the species are of the largest that I have examined, or of which there is an authentic record.

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Order SQUAMATA.

Suborder SERPENTES.

Serpentes Linnaeus, 1758, Syst Nat 10th ed 1, p. 214, Pope, Snakes Alive, 1937 (habits).

Ophidia Macartney, 1802, in Ross Transl Cuvier's Lect Comp Anat 1, tab. iii; Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 232, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 1, Gadow, Amphib and Rept 1909, p 581, Nopsca, Palaeobiologica, 1, 1928, p 178; Romer, Vertebrate Paleontology, 1933, p. 439; Hoffstetter, Arch. Mus. Hist Nat. Lyon, xv, 1939, p 3

Key to the Families.

- I Palato-maxillary arch* incomplete,
no ectopterygoid, no supratemporal,
prefrontal forming a suture with the
nasal, coronoid present, vestiges
of pelvis
 - Maxilla transversely placed, loosely attached,
toothed, mandible edentulous Typhlopidae, p 41.
 - Maxilla bordering the mouth, toothless,
mandible toothed Leptotyphlopidae, p 59.
- II Palato-maxillary arch complete*,
both jaws toothed
 - A Coronoid present, prefrontal bone
in contact with the nasal
 - 1 Vestiges of hind-limbs, supra-
temporal present
 - Bones of the skull united to one another,
supratemporal intercalated in the cran-
ial wall Aniliidae, p. 94.
 - Supratemporal attached scale-like to the
cranium, entirely suspending the quad-
rate, facial bones movable
 - 2 No vestiges of limbs, no supra-
temporal, tail very short, blunt,
the scales covering it more or
less modified Uropeltidae, p 61.
 - B No coronoid bone
 - 1 No poison fangs in the front of the
jaw.
 - Bones of the skull solidly united, pre-
maxillary teeth, prefrontal bone in
contact with the nasal Xenopeltidae, p 98
 - No premaxillary teeth, prefrontal not in
contact with the nasal, facial bones
movable Colubridae, p 114

* The palato-maxillary arch is composed of four bones, namely the palatine, pterygoid, maxilla, and ectopterygoid.

Maxillary bone edentulous except for a few minute teeth, hypapophyses of the anterior vertebræ piercing the œsophagus . . .

Dasypeltidæ, p 403

- 2 Poison fangs in the front of the mouth, the most anterior maxillary tooth canaliculate or tubular

Maxillary bone horizontal, with teeth behind the poison fangs, tail cylindrical, no loreal shield

Elapidæ, p 406

Maxillary bone horizontal, with teeth behind the poison fangs, tail vertically compressed, paddle shaped

Hydrophilidæ, p 439

Maxillary bone very short, vertically erectile, no teeth on it except the poison fangs

Viperidæ, p 477

As an alternative Key based upon characters that are easily determined and mostly external, the following is proposed, except for some members of the Colubridæ, it will be found to work very well.

- I Eyes vestigial, covered over by shields, body worm-like, covered with uniform scales, tail very short

Teeth only in the upper jaw, 16 to 36 scales round the body . . .

Typhlopidae

Teeth only in the lower jaw, 14 scales round the body

Leptotyphlopidae.

- II Eyes exposed, teeth in both jaws, median row of ventral scales more or less distinctly enlarged, usually forming transverse shields

- A Vestiges of hind-limbs, terminating in a claw-like spur, usually distinguishable on each side of the vent, ventral scales transversely enlarged, not extending completely across the belly

Ventrals scarcely broader than the adjacent scales, 19 to 23 scales round the body

Aniliidæ.

Ventrals narrow, but quite distinct, more than 40 scales round the body

Boidæ.

- B No vestiges of limbs

- 1 No poison fangs in the front of the mouth

Premaxillary teeth, an azygous occipital shield, in contact with the frontal, ventrals well developed, not extending completely across the belly . . .

Xenopeltidæ.

Ventrals scarcely broader than the adjacent scales, tail extremely short, ending obtusely and covered with modified scales.

Uropeltidæ.

Ventrals nearly or quite as broad as the body, tail cylindrical, pointed, no premaxillary teeth

Colubridæ

Maxillary bone edentulous except for a few minute teeth, scales in 15 rows, pupil vertical

Dasypeltidæ.

2. Poison fangs in the front of the mouth, the most anterior maxillary tooth canaliculate or tubular
- Maxillary bone with teeth behind the fangs, tail cylindrical, no loreal, pupil round, ventrals nearly or quite as broad as the body
- Maxillary bone with teeth behind the fangs, tail vertically compressed, paddle-shaped, pupil round
- Maxillary bone very short, bearing fangs only, pupil vertical, ventrals nearly or quite as broad as the body

Elapidæ.

Hydrophildæ.

Viperidæ.

Family TYPHLOPIDÆ.

Typhlopsidæ Gray, 1845, Cat Liz Brit Mus p 130 (in part)
Typhlopida, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 234, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 3, Werner, Arch Naturg Berlin, lxxxvii, 1921, p 266, Essex, P Z S 1928, p 879, Haas, Zool Jahrb ln, 1930, p 1, and Zeit Zell mik Anat Berlin, xvi, 1932, p 745, Mookerjee & Das, Nature, cxxx, 1932, p 629

Palato-maxillary arch incomplete, no ectopterygoid, maxilla more or less transverse, loosely attached to the skull, the teeth

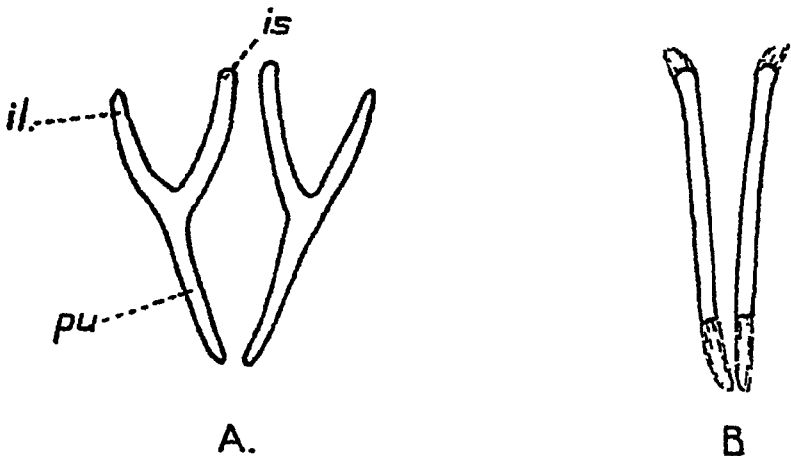


Fig 12—Pelvic girdles of *Typhlops* A *T. braminus* B *T. acutus* (after Essex, P Z S 1927, figs 83 & 75)

il ileum, is., ischium, pu, pubis

directed backwards prefrontal forming a suture with the nasal; no supratemporal mandible with coronoid bone, toothless quadrate elongate, directed horizontally forwards Pelvis reduced to a single bone or absent Body cylindrical, of equal diameter throughout covered with uniform scales, eyes more or less distinct, under the shields

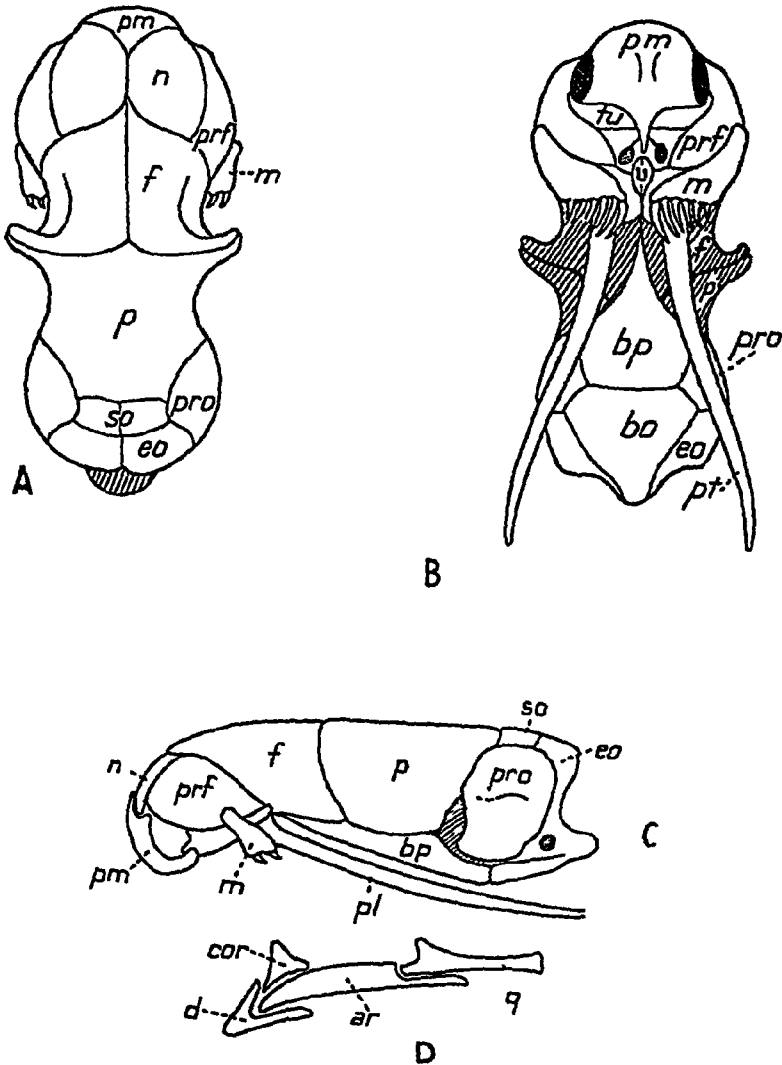


Fig 13.—Skull of *Typhlops diardi*. Drawn from a specimen stained with alizarin and a dried skull (B.M. Collection) \times about 20. A Dorsal, B Ventral, C Lateral views. The mandibles have been removed. D The outer view of left mandible.

ar, articular; bo, basioccipital; bp, basisphenoid; cor, coronoid; d, dentary; eo, exoccipital; f, frontal; m, maxilla; n, nasal; p, parietal; pl, palatine and pterygoid, no suture visible; pm, premaxilla; prf, prefrontal; pro, prootic; pt, pterygoid; q, quadrate; so, supraoccipital; tu, turbinal (or septomaxilla); v, vomer.

Three genera are recognized, *Typhlops* containing by far the largest number of species.

Range South Europe; South Asia; Africa, Australia; Tropical America.

Genus TYPHLOPS.

WORM-SNAKES; BLIND SNAKES.

Typhlops Oppel, 1811, Ordn Rept. p 54 (type *lumbricalis*), Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 235, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 7; Werner, Arch Naturg Berlin, lxxxvii, 1921, p 271, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 5, Mahendra, Proc Ind Acad Sci iii, 1936, p. 128

Typhlina Wagler, 1830, Syst Amphib. p 196 (type *lineata*)

Psilodion Dum & Bibr., 1844, Érp Gen vi, p 257 (subst name for *Typhlina*, same type).

Typhlinahis Gray, 1845, Cat. Liz Brit. Mus p. 134 (subst. name for *Typhlina*, same type)

Argyrophis Gray, l. c s p 136 (type *bicolor*)

Diaphorotyphlops Jan, 1861, Arch Zool Anat Fisiol 1, (2) p 185 (type *disparalis*)

Gerrhopilus Fitzinger, 1843, Syst. Rept p 24 (type *ater*)

Aspidorhynchus Fitzinger, l c s p 24 (type *eschrichitzi*)

Gryptotyphlops Peters, 1881, Sitz. Ges Nat Fr p 70 (type *acutus*)

Head not distinct from neck, with large rostral, nasal, ocular and preocular shields; nasal shield more or less completely divided into an anterior and lower, and a posterior and upper portion, the cleft passing through the nostril, the lower cleft is always present, the upper may or may not be; mouth small, inferior, tail extremely short Four supralabials is constant for all the species.

The hemipenis of *Typhlops diardi*, the only species I have been able to examine, is short and fat, with convoluted plicæ, there are no spines.

Range: As in the Family. Werner in his revision of the genus lists 164 species.

Small, degenerate, worm-like snakes, most of them only a few inches in length, living underground, or in decaying wood or vegetation. In soft earth they can burrow rapidly, but the highly polished character of the scales, all of which are very strongly imbricate, and the absence of ventral shields makes progression above ground often difficult Use, however, is made of the terminal spine of the tail with which most of the species are provided This, being stuck into the ground and thus fixing the body, is used as a lever for moving the body backwards or forwards According to Annandale the hook on the snout of *acutus* is used for the same purpose Their food consists of worms, soft-bodied insects and their larvæ.

It is usually stated that the Typhlopidae are oviparous,

but Wall has remarked (1918) "I am not aware of any authenticated instance of the eggs of any of them having been deposited" Certainly not all the species are oviparous. A very large specimen of *T. diardi* (B M 1937 9 8 1) obtained by me near Saigon contains 14 embryos all perfectly developed. The usual number of eggs (or young) produced at a time is from 3 to 8.

Nothing is known about the rate of growth of the young, and observations on this point would be valuable. Full length appears to be reached fairly rapidly, for it is common to find two individuals of the same species of equal length, but one of them only half as thick as the other. A more puzzling problem is to account for two individuals one of which is distinctly longer but yet more slender than the other. A count of the number of transverse scale-rows is then valuable, for within limits this appears to be fairly constant for the species.

Mookerjee & Das (1932), and Mahendra (1936) have pointed out that the parietal bone of *Typhlops braminus* is paired, instead of the two halves being united as is usual in snakes. This is true of many of the diminutive (or most degenerate) forms of *Typhlops*, and of the larger ones in early life. The character can be seen quite easily, after simple dissection, with a good lens, but it does not alter our conception of the Ophidian skull. Degeneration of structure, is, in certain ways, only failure of development, and *Typhlops*, in respect of its parietal bones, may be regarded as remaining undeveloped throughout life.

Haas (1932) has given an account of the peculiar gland-like structures in the epidermis of the head of *Typhlops braminus*. He regards them as being of the type of the sebaceous glands and suggests some theories with regard to their function. A fuller investigation of these remarkable structures would well repay the work.

They are not confined to *T. braminus* and can be seen with a good lens, without dissection, in most of the Indian species, showing through the scales as light lines of transversely arranged markings, following the contours of the scales but within their overlapping edges (fig 14). In *T. beddomei* the whole of the head anterior to the eyes is studded with them. They are least distinct in those species with a large rostral shield. *T. diardi* has a pair of conspicuous glandular patches immediately beneath the nostrils, they can be readily examined by removing the scales that cover them and the laminated arrangement of the glandular structures is then well seen (fig 15). This condition presumably foreshadows the external pit, or depression, which is to be found in *T. bothrorhynchus*.

Key to the Species

I. Snout rounded, nostrils lateral.

A No subocular, the ocular in contact with the 3rd and 4th labials

a Nasals not in contact with one another behind the rostral.

18 scales round the body

Breadth of rostral $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ that of the head, diameter of body 50-60 times in the total length

porrectus, p 46

Breadth of rostral $\frac{2}{3}$ that of the head, diameter of body 85 times in the total length

floweri, p 46.

20 scales round the body

Breadth of rostral $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ that of the head, nasal suture usually passing to preocular, diameter of body 30-45 times in total length, 290-320 transverse scale-rows

braminus, p 46.

As in *braminus*, but diameter of body 55-75 times in total length, 370-400 transverse scale-rows.

psammeces, p 48

Breadth of rostral $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ that of the head, nasal suture to 2nd labial, head and neck white

albiceps, p 48.

Rostral at least half as broad as the head, eye not distinct

thurstoni, p 49

22 scales round the body

Breadth of rostral $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ that of the head; nasal completely divided

jerdoni, p 50.

Breadth of rostral $\frac{1}{2}$ that of the head, nasal completely divided

leucomelas, p 50.

Rostral $\frac{1}{2}$ as broad as the head, nasal incompletely divided

tenuicollis, p 50

24 or 26 scales round the body (rarely 22 in *diardi*)

Breadth of rostral $\frac{1}{2}$ or more, that of head, black above, whitish below

diardi, p 51

Breadth of rostral $\frac{1}{2}$ that of head. back with longitudinal black lines

oatesi, p 53

A pair of pits under the snout

b Nasals in contact with one another behind the rostral, 16 or 18 scales round the body

bothriorhynchus,
[p 53

18 scales round the body, preocular in contact with the anterior nasal

tindalli, p 53.

18 scales round the body, preocular separated from the anterior nasal

beddomei, p 54

16 scales round the body

ohgolepis, p 55

B 1 or 2 suboculars, 18 scales round the body

One subocular, separating the ocular and preocular from the labials, rostral separating the nasals

mirus, p 55

One subocular, separating the ocular and preocular from the labials, nasals in contact with one another behind the rostral

ceylonicus, p 55.
[p 56

Two shields separating the ocular and preocular from the labials

andamanensis

II Snout pointed, with sharp horizontal edge and inferior nostrils; 28-36 scales round the body

acutus, p 56.

1 *Typhlops porrectus*.

Typhlops porrectus Stoliczka, 1871, J A S Bengal, xl, p 426, pl xxv, figs 1-4 (Bengal, type lost), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 240, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 19, Blanford, 2nd Yark Miss Rept 1878, p 21, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxi, 1911, p 278, fig head, and ibid xxix, 1923, p 348

Typhlops mackinnoni Wall, 1910, J Bombay N H S xix, p 805, fig (Mussorie, 6000 ft, W Himalayas, London), and ibid. xxix, 1923, p 348

Typhlops vernalis Wall, 1913, J Bombay N H S xxii, p 515, fig (Pyawbwe, Upper Burma, London), and ibid xxix, 1923, p 348

Snout rounded, strongly projecting, nostrils lateral. Breadth of rostral $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ that of the head, not extending quite to the level of the eyes, nasal incompletely divided, the suture passing from the 2nd labial to the nostril or just beyond, ocular and preocular shorter than the posterior nasal, eye fairly distinct, in the ocular or at its junction with the supraocular, lower edge of ocular wedged in between the 3rd and 4th labials, prefrontal in contact with the rostral, tail ending in a fine point, 18 scales round the body, the diameter of which is contained 50-60 times in the total length, 400-440 rows of transverse scales

Blackish or brown above, paler below, snout, chin and anal region usually whitish

Total length 285 mm

Range India (Karachi, N W F P, the Himalayas, Punjab, United Prov, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal, Bombay Dist, Bangalore, Travancore), Ceylon (Pundulova), Upper Burma (Pyawbwe)

2 *Typhlops floweri*.

Typhlops floweri Boulenger, 1899, in Flower, P Z S p 654, pl xxxvi., fig 2 (Siam, London), Cochran, Proc US Nat Mus lxxvii, 1930, p 21

Differs from *porrectus* as follows —Nasal completely divided, rostral a little broader, $\frac{3}{8}$ the width of the head, tail not ending in a spine. Diameter of the body 85 times in the total length

Black, paler below, snout and anal region yellowish

Total length 210 mm

The exact locality of the type is not known, Cochran records a second specimen obtained in Bangkok

3 *Typhlops braminus*.

COMMON BLIND SNAKE, BRAHMINY BLIND SNAKE

Russell, 1796, Ind Serp 1, p 48, pl xliii (Vizagapatam)

Eryx braminus Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vii, p 279 (based on Russell) —*Typhlops braminus*, Cuvier, Reg Anim 2nd ed,

n, 1829, p 73, Boulenger, F B. I 1890, p 236, fig head, and Cat Sn Brit Mus. i, 1893, p 16, Laidlaw, Fauna Mald Lacc 1902, p 121, Annandale, Rec Ind Mus i, 1907, p 397, Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1907, p 104, and ibid xix, 1909, p 609, and xxv, 1918, p 377, col pl, and ibid xxxix, 1923, p 349, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 9, fig head, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 71, Bourret, Serp Indo-China, 1936, p 10, fig head, Fraser, J. Bombay N H S xxxix, 1937, p 464, Prater, ibid xxx. 1924, p 165

Tortrix russelli Merrem, 1820, Syst Amph p 84 (based on Russell) — *Typhlops russelli*, Schlegel, Abbild Amphib 1839, p. 39 (Bengal Paris).

Ophthalmidium tenue Hallowell, 1860, Proc. Acad Philad p. 497 (Hongkong; ? type lost)

Typhlops limbricki Annandale, 1906, Mem A S Bengal, i, p 193 (Ramnad, S India; Calcutta), Wall, J Bombay N H S xxxix, 1923, p 349.

Typhlops braminus var *pallidus* Wall, 1909, J Bombay N H S xix, p. 609 (Dibrugarh, Upper Assam)

Typhlops fletcheri Wall, 1919, ibid. xxvi, p 556 (Nilgiris), and Spol Zeyl xii, 1922, p 253

Typhlops braminus var *arenicola* Annandale, 1906, Mem Asiat Soc Bengal, i, p 192 (Ramnad, S India, London and Calcutta)

Snout rounded, strongly projecting, nostrils lateral Upper portion of rostral $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ the breadth of the head, not extending to the level of the eyes, nasal shield completely

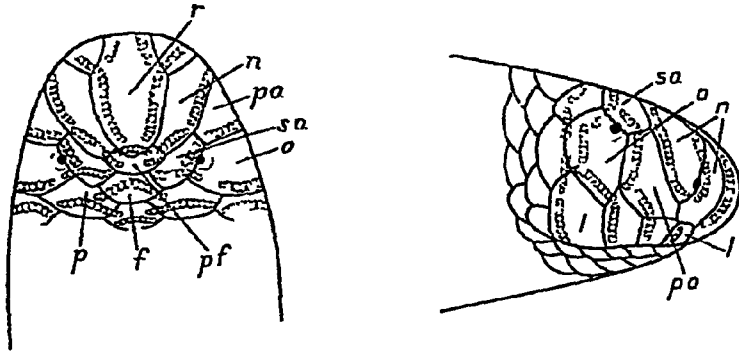


Fig 14—Head of *Typhlops braminus* The disposition of the gland is also shown

f, frontal, l, labial, n, nasal; o, ocular, p, parietal, pf, prefrontal, po, preocular; r, rostral; sa, supraocular

divided, the lower suture usually passing to the preocular, that shield being in contact with the anterior nasal; ocular and preocular subequal in breadth, both a little shorter than the posterior nasal, eye distinct, in the ocular shield or at its junction with the supraocular, lower edge of ocular shield wedged in between 3rd and 4th labials, prefrontal in contact with the rostral; tail ending in a fine point, 20 scales round the body, the diameter of which is 30–45 times in the total length; 290–320 transverse rows of scales

Brown or blackish above, lighter below; snout, anal region and end of tail usually whitish

Total length . 170 mm

Range The whole of India, Ceylon, and Indo-China, Hainan, southern China, the Malay Peninsula and East Indian Is, Persia and Arabia, Africa (Zanzibar, Cape Colony), the Andamans and Nicobars and Islands of the Indian Ocean, Mexico

The common *Typhlops* of the Oriental Region

Variation Occasionally the nasal suture instead of passing backwards to the preocular passes downwards to the 2nd labial. This has happened in the types of *arenicola*, *diversiceps*, *limbricki*, and *fletcheri*. In 12 specimens from the Tinnevely Hills (B M 84 5 8 17-26) it occurs in 5, while in the other 7 the usual condition obtains

Annanale's *arenicola*, based on three specimens, are pale buff in colour, almost pigmentless in life. They were found in sandy desert country, and it would be interesting to know if their environment is responsible for their lack of colour

4 *Typhlops psammeces*.

Typhlops tenuis Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 176, pl xvi, fig C (Madras, London)

Typhlops psammeces Günther, l c s p 444 (subst name for *tenuis* preoco)

Typhlops psammophilus Annandale, 1906, Mem Asiat Soc Bengal, 1, p 193 (Ramnad, S India, London and Calcutta)

Like *braminus*, but of more slender proportions. Frontal $\frac{1}{2}$ the breadth of the head, nasal suture to the preocular, diameter of the body 55-75 times in the total length, 370-400 transverse rows of scales

Total length . 140 mm.

Whether I am correct in reviving Gunther's *psammeces* as distinct from *braminus* remains to be seen. The greater slenderness of the body, and the increased number of transverse scale-rows, distinguish it from the typical form, but more material may show that it is only a variant. The exact locality of Gunther's specimen is not known—the word Madras covered a large area in his days—but the locality of Annandale's *psammophilus*, which I regard as conspecific with *psammeces*, is quite clear, it is certainly very different from his *arenicola*, which came from the same district

5 *Typhlops albiceps*.

Typhlops albiceps Boulenger, 1898, Ann Mag Nat Hist (7) 1, p 124 (Chantabun, S E Siam; London), and Fauna Malay Pen

1912, p 103, Flower, P Z S 1899, p 654, pl xxxvii, fig 1

Typhlops malaisei Rendahl, 1937, K Sven Vet Akad Stockholm, xxix A, 10, p 11 (Dawna Hills, Burma. Stockholm, not seen by me)

Snout rounded, strongly projecting, . nostrils lateral Rostral $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ the width of the head, extending to the level of the eyes; nasal incompletely divided, the upper cleft not reaching the rostral, the lower passing to the 1st or 2nd labial, preocular as long as the ocular or the posterior nasal. eye small, just distinguishable, lower edge of ocular shield wedged in between the 3rd and 4th upper labials, head shields larger than the scales on the body, prefrontal in contact with the rostral Tail ending in a fine point, 20 scales round the body (not 18 as given by Boulenger), the diameter of which is contained about 60 times in the total length

Light brown, paler below: head, neck, tail and anal region white

Total length 180 mm

Range. Siam (Bangkok, Chantabun, San Kampeng Mts), the Larut Hills, Perak, in the Malay Peninsula, Burma (Dawna Hills)

To this species I also refer a specimen in the Paris Museum collected by Monsieur Colani in French Indo-China, exact locality not known In morphological characters it agrees entirely with *albiceps*, but it is considerably larger, being 255 mm in total length, diameter 5 mm Most of the head is white, but not the neck The eyes are not visible but this may be due to the fact that the creature is about to slough, its general colour being grey

6 *Typhlops thurstoni*.

Typhlops thurstoni Boettger, 1890, Ber. Senck Ges Frankfurt, p 297 (Nilgiris, Frankfurt, not seen by me), Sarasin, Zool Jahrb Jena, 1910, p 137; Wall, J Bombay N H S xxxi, 1919, p 556

Typhlops walli Procter, 1924, Ann Mag Nat Hist (9) xiii, p 139, fig head (Wynaad, S India, London)

Snout broadly rounded, strongly projecting, nostrils lateral Rostral broad above, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ as broad as the head, extending to the level of the ocular shields, nasal incompletely divided, the suture passing from the 2nd labial to just beyond the nostril, ocular and preocular shorter than the nasal, eye not distinguishable, ocular shield touching 3rd and 4th labials, not wedged in between them, prefrontal half as broad as the head, in broad contact with the rostral, supraocular twice as broad as long, tail ending in a point 20 scales round the body, the diameter of which is 50-80 times in the total length, 550-600 transverse rows of scales

Light brownish or yellowish above, paler below, snout and anal region whitish

Total length 300 mm

Range. S India (Nilgiris, Trichur, Cochin State)

Known from 4 specimens

7. *Typhlops jerdoni*.

Typhlops jerdoni Boulenger, 1890, F. B. I. p. 238, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 19, pl. 1, fig. 5 (Khasi Hills, London), Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xix, 1909, p. 338, and xxvi, 1919, p. 865, and xxix, 1923, p. 349.

Typhlops diversiceps Annandale, 1912, Rec. Ind. Mus. viii p. 44, pl. v, fig. 1 (Pashighat, Abor Country : Calcutta).

Snout rounded, strongly projecting, nostrils lateral. Rostral narrow, its breadth $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{2}{5}$ that of the head, extending to the level of the eyes, nasal completely divided, the lower cleft passing to the 2nd labial, ocular and preocular longer than the posterior nasal, eye very distinct, in the ocular, lower edge of ocular shield wedged in between 3rd and 4th labials, supraocular larger than the prefrontal, which is in contact with or just separated from the rostral, tail ending in a spicule; 22 scales round the body, the diameter of which is contained 35–45 times in the total length, 260–280 transverse rows of scales.

Dark brown or blackish above, light brown below, snout and anal region whitish.

Total length 280 mm.

Range Eastern Himalayas (Sikkim, Darjeeling, Duars dists.), Assam (Abor and Khasi Hills), Upper Burma (Lashio). Wall (1919) records a specimen from Pegu.

8. *Typhlops leucomelas*.

Typhlops leucomelas Boulenger, 1890, F. B. I. p. 237 (Haycock Mt., near Galle, Ceylon, London), and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 18, pl. 1, fig. 4, Wall, Sn. Ceylon, 1921, p. 13, fig., and Spol. Zeyl. xxi, 1922, p. 253, and J. Bombay N. H. S. xxx, 1923, p. 350.

Differs from *jerdoni* as follows — Breadth of rostral above that of the head, diameter of the body 32 times in the total length.

Black above, whitish below, the two colours meeting in a clear line of demarcation.

Total length 130 mm.

The type is from near Galle. There is a second specimen in the Colombo Museum, without precise locality.

9. *Typhlops tenuicollis*.

Onychocephalus (Ophthalmidion) tenuicollis Peters, 1864, Mon. Akad. Berlin, p. 272, pl. —, fig. 2 (Himalayas; Berlin; not seen by me) — *Typhlops tenuicollis*, Boulenger, F. B. I., 1890, p. 241, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 37, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxx, 1923, p. 350.

Typhlops theobaldianus Stoliczka, 1871, J. A. S. Bengal, xi, p. 429, pl. xxv, figs. 5–8 (type loc. unknown, Calcutta); Boulenger, F. B. I., 1890, p. 240, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 38, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxx, 1923, p. 350.

Snout broadly rounded, strongly projecting, nostrils lateral. Rostral half as broad as the head, extending to the level of the ocular shields, nasal incompletely divided, no upper suture, the lower passing to the 1st labial, ocular shorter than the preocular, posterior nasal longer than both, eye not or just distinguishable, lower edge of ocular shield wedged in between 3rd and 4th labials, supraocular twice as broad as long, prefrontal in contact with the rostral tail ending in a point, 22 scales round the body, the diameter of which is contained 65-70 times in the total length, 480-520 transverse rows of scales.

The type of *theobaldianus* is now considerably broken up and discoloured, but the characters necessary for identification are fortunately intact.

Boulenger (F B I p 236) has placed *tenuicollis* in a section by itself, the nostrils said to be inferior. Peter's figure, on the other hand, shows the nostrils lateral, and in all other respects the description agrees so completely with *theobaldianus* that I have no hesitation in uniting them. A third specimen has since been obtained by Capt Butler at Samagutin, Naga Hills, Assam.

10 *Typhlops diardi*.

DIARD'S BLIND SNAKE

- Typhlops diardi* Schlegel, 1839, Abbild Amphib p 39 (Indes Orientales, Paris), Dum & Bibr, 1844, Érp Gén. vi, p 300, Jan, Icon Ophid p 19, liv 3, pls iv, v, fig 10, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 238, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i. 1893, p 22, Annandale, Rec Ind Mus viii, 1912, p 44, Wall & Evans, J Bombay N H S xiii, 1901, p 620, Wall, ibid xxv, 1918, p 381, col pl, and xxx, 1923, p 351, and xxx, 1925, p 805, and xxxi 1926, p 558, Venning, ibid xx, 1911, p 770 — *Typhlops diardi diardi*, Smith, J N. H S Siam, vi, 1923, p 52, and Rec Ind Mus, xli, 1940, p 479.
- Typhlops mulleri* Schlegel, 1839, Abbild Amphib p 39, pl xxxii, figs 25-28 (Padang, Sumatra, Leiden) — *Typhlops diardi mulleri*, Brongersma, Zool Meded, Leiden, xvii, 1934, p 193.
- Typhlops nigroalbus* Dum & Bibr 1844, Érp Gén vi, p 295 (Sumatra, Paris) — *Typhlops diardi nigroalbus*, Smith, J N H S Siam, vi, 1923, p 52.
- Typhlops schneideri* Jan, 1864, Icon Gen Ophid i, liv 9, pl 1, p 20, fig 1 (Bangkok, Milan).
- Argyrophis khaifeldi* Gray, 1845, Cat Liz Brit Mus p 137 (Khasi Hills, London).
- Argyrophis bicolor* Gray, l o s p 136 (Singapore, London).
- Typhlops striolatus* Peters, 1861, Mon Akad Berlin, p 922 (Calcutta, London and Berlin).
- Typhlops siamensis* Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 175, pl xvi, fig D (Siam, London).
- Typhlops barmanus* Stoliczka, 1872, Proc A S Bengal, p 144 (near Moulmein, Burma, Calcutta).
- Typhlops tephrosoma* Wall, 1908, J Bombay N H S xviii, p 314 (Khasi Hills, London), and ibid xxx, 1925, p 805.
- Typhlops cinereus* Wall, 1909, J Bombay N. H S xix, p 609 (Upper Assam).

Snout rounded, strongly projecting, nostrils lateral. Upper portion of rostral $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ the breadth of the head, extending to the level of the eyes or not quite so far, nasal incompletely divided, the lower cleft passing to the 2nd labial, ocular and preocular shorter than the posterior nasal, eye distinct, usually in the ocular shield, the lower edge of which is wedged in between 3rd and 4th labials, prefrontal in contact with the rostral. Tail ending in a small spine. Diameter of the body contained 26–32 times in the total length, 260–300 transverse rows of scales (for specimens of *diardi* *diardi*)

Total length 430 mm. The young in the specimen referred to on p. 44 measure about 100 mm in length, diameter 2.5 mm.

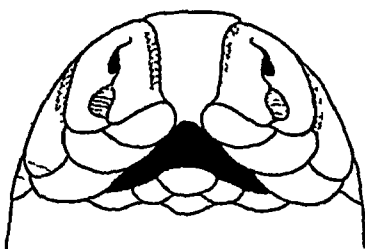


Fig. 15.—Snout of *Typhlops diardi*, seen from below. The imbricate portion of the scale covering the pit has been cut away.

The type of *diardi* was said by Schlegel to have come from Cochin China, but Dumeril and Bibron, writing of the specimen later, state that its exact locality of origin is not known. All the specimens that I have seen from Cochin China agree with the Malayan form and must therefore be labelled *muelleri*.

The distribution of the two forms will now stand as follows —

Typhlops diardi diardi

24 to 26, rarely 28, scales round the body. Brown to blackish above, paler below, the two colours not strongly contrasted.

Range Bengal, Assam, Burma and French Indo-China north of lat 16°.

Typhlops diardi muelleri

24 to 26, rarely 22, scales round the body. Blackish olive to brown above, yellowish-white below, the two colours with a clear line of demarcation.

Range Burma, Siam, and French Indo-China, south of lat 14°, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago.

I have not yet seen any examples from between lats 14° and 16°.

11 *Typhlops oatesi*.

Typhlops oatesi Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 238, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus 1, 1893, p 23 (Table I, Cocos Group, Andamans, London); Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 350

Snout rounded, strongly projecting, nostrils lateral. Rostral narrow, its breadth $\frac{1}{4}$ that of the head, reaching to between the eyes, nasal nearly completely divided, the lower cleft passing to the 2nd labial, ocular and preocular longer than the posterior nasal, the lower edge of the ocular wedged in between 3rd and 4th labials, eye very distinct, in the ocular shield; prefrontal in contact with the rostral. tail ending in a small spine, 24 scales round the body, the diameter of which is contained 32 times in the total length.

Yellowish-brown, with confluent dark spots in the centres of the scales, forming longitudinal lines down the body, on the middle of the belly they are absent.

Total length. 200 mm

Range Known only from the three type-specimens.

12 *Typhlops bothriorhynchus*.

Typhlops bothriorhynchus Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 174, pl xvi, fig G ("Penang"; London), Stoliczka, J A S Bengal, xl, 1871, p 424, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 239, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 23, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 350

Snout rounded, strongly projecting, nostrils lateral. Rostral narrow, its upper portion about $\frac{1}{3}$ the width of the head, extending to the level of the eyes, nasal nearly completely divided, the lower cleft passing to the 2nd labial. ocular, preocular, and posterior nasal subequal in length; eye very distinct, in the ocular shield, the lower edge of which is wedged in between 3rd and 4th labials; prefrontal in contact with the rostral. A distinct but shallow depression on each side of the snout, below the nostril, the nasal cleft passing through it. tail ending in a small spine, 24 scales round the body, the diameter of which is contained 30 times in the total length, 300-330 transverse rows of scales.

Brown above, paler below

Total length 180 mm

Range Assam. The specimen recorded by Stoliczka from Hardwar, U. Provinces, cannot now be found.

13 *Typhlops tindalli**, sp. nov.

Typhlops thurstoni (not of Boettger) Boulenger, 1893, Cat Sn Brit. Mus 1, p 26, Procter, Ann Mag Nat Hist (9) xiii, 1924, p 139, fig head

Typhlops beddomei (not of Boulenger), Wall, 1919, J Bombay N H S xxvi, p 556

* Named after Mr Roger Tindall

Snout rounded, strongly projecting, nostrils lateral. Rostral broad, $\frac{3}{4}$ the width of the head, scarcely reaching half-way to the level of the ocular shields, nasal incompletely divided, the lower suture passing to the preocular, that shield being in good contact with the anterior nasal. Posterior nasal very large, in good contact with its fellow behind the rostral, no visible eye, ocular shield much smaller than the preocular, touching the 3rd and 4th labials not wedged in between them, supraocular twice as broad as long, prefrontal and frontal larger than the scales on the body. Tail rounded, no trace of a spine, 18 scales round the body, the diameter of which is contained 50 times in the total length, about 300 transverse rows of scales.

Uniform isabelline yellow.

Total length 175 mm.

The types, 3 in number, are from Nilambur, Malabar district. To this species I also refer the specimen now apparently lost, identified as *beddomi* by Wall from Pillor in the Nilgiri Hills (1919).

Boulenger's description in the Catalogue is an abbreviated translation of Böttger's, but the two specimens listed by him as from Nilambur, and labelled *thursloni* on the bottle, are something entirely different, and represent an undescribed and very distinct species.

14 *Typhlops beddomi*.

Typhlops beddomi Boulenger, 1890, F. B. I. p. 237, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 18, pl. 1, fig. 3 (Hills of S. India, London).

Snout rounded, strongly projecting, nostrils lateral. Breadth of rostral $\frac{1}{2}$ that of the head, not reaching to the level of the eyes, nasal completely divided, the lower cleft passing to the 2nd labial, posterior nasal very large, much larger than the ocular or preocular, in contact with its fellow behind the rostral, eye fairly distinct, lower edge of ocular shield usually not wedged in between the 3rd and 4th labials, supraocular twice as broad as long, tail ending in a point, 18 scales round the body, the diameter of which is 20 to 30 times in the total length; 190-200 transverse rows of scales.

Brown above, pale below, snout and anal region whitish, a more or less distinct dark vertebral line often present.

Total length 110 mm (140 mm Wall).

Range Hills of Southern India, between 2,000-5,000 feet (Travancore, Anaimalai Hills, Cochin State, Tinnevely). There are in the British Museum 4 specimens said to be from the Kumeddy Hills, Vizagapatam district, collected by Col. Beddom.

As already stated (p. 44), in this species the glandular

structures are more richly developed than in any other Indian species, the whole of the head in front of the eyes being studded with them

15 *Typhlops oligolepis*.

Typhlops oligolepis Wall, 1909, J Bombay N H S xix, p 339, fig (Nagri Valley, Darjeeling dist, 5000 feet, London), and xxix, 1923, p 347

Closely allied to *beddomei*, differing as follows —Rostral smaller, the portion visible above only extending to about half-way between the tip of the snout and the level of the eyes, eyes less distinct tail without point, 16 scales round the body, the diameter of which is contained 50 to 60 times in the total length.

Brown above, paler below

Total length 145 mm

Range The Eastern Himalayas, 5,000 feet (Sikkim, Nagri Valley, Darjeeling district)

Three specimens are known

16 *Typhlops mirus*.

Typhlops mirus Jan, 1860, Icon Gen Liv 1, pls iv-v fig. 7 (Ceylon, Leyden), Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 176, pl xvi, fig. H, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 240, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 52, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 7, fig head, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 348

Snout rounded, strongly projecting, nostrils lateral. Rostral broad, about $\frac{1}{2}$ as broad as the head, nearly reaching to the level of the eyes, nasal completely divided, the lower suture passing to the 2nd labial, ocular and preocular small, much shorter than the posterior nasal, the latter separated from the labials by a subocular which is wedged in between them above and is in contact with the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th labials below, eye scarcely distinct, the ocular shield in contact with the 4th labial only, prefrontal in contact with the rostral Tail bluntly pointed, without spine, 18 scales round the body, the diameter of which is contained 40-50 times in the total length; 330-360 transverse rows of scales

Brown above, paler below, snout and anal region whitish.

Total length 140 mm.

Range Ceylon, in the hills Known definitely from Peradeniya

17 *Typhlops ceylonicus*, sp nov

Snout rounded, strongly projecting, nostrils lateral, rostral nearly half the width of the head, nasal completely divided, the lower suture passing to the second labial, the posterior shield very large, in good contact with its fellow

behind the rostral, ocular and preocular small, the latter separated from the labials by a subocular, which is wedged in between them above, and is in contact with the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th labials below, no visible eye, the ocular shield in contact with the 4th labial only, tail blunt, without terminal spine, 18 scales round the body, the diameter of which is 35 times in the total length, about 330 transverse rows of scales

Brown above, yellowish-white below.

Total length 140 mm

Known from a single specimen obtained at Peradeniya, Ceylon

Type in the Indian Museum Closely related to *T. mirus*, from which it differs in having the nasals in contact with one another behind the rostral, and in its stouter proportions

18 *Typhlops andamanensis*.

Typhlops andamanensis Stoliczka, 1871, J A S Bengal xi, p 428, pl xxv, figs 9-12 (Andaman Is Calcutta), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 241, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 52, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 348

Snout rounded, strongly projecting, nostrils lateral. Breadth of rostral $\frac{1}{2}$ that of the head, extending to the level of the eyes, nasal completely divided, the lower suture passing to the 2nd labial, ocular and preocular shorter than the posterior nasal, both shields separated from the labials by two smaller shields, the one below the ocular touching the 3rd and 4th labials, not wedged in between them, eye indistinct, prefrontal in contact with the rostral tail obtuse ending in a spine, 18 scales round the body, the diameter of which is contained 17-20 times in the total length

Brownish-black above, sides vinaceous, paler below, where it is chequered with white, mouth and tail below white

Total length 160 mm

This description is drawn up from Stoliczka's text and drawing The only specimen which he had is unfortunately lost

19 *Typhlops acutus*.

THE BEAKED BLIND SNAKE

Onychocephalus acutus Dum & Bibr 1844, Érp Gén vi, p 333 (type loc unknown, Paris)—*Typhlops acutus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 241, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 56, Annandale, J A S Bengal, lxxiii, 1904, p 208, Wall, J Bombay N H S xvi, 1905, p 292, and xxv, 1918, p 377, col pl and xxix, 1923, p 351.

Onychocephalus westermanni Lutken, 1862, Vid Medd, Kjobenhavn, p 306, p 1, fig 5 (India)

Typhlops excipiens Jan, 1865, Icon Gen Oph, Liv 1, pl 1, fig 5 (Indes Orientales, Cologne)

Snout pointed and hooked, projecting strongly, with sharp horizontal edge, nostrils inferior. Rostral very large, covering most of the head above, extending posteriorly to well behind the level of the eyes, nostril close to the rostral, the suture passing from it to the 2nd labial, the anterior nasal being extremely small, a long, narrow preocular, a subocular in contact with the 3rd and 4th labials, ocular largely in contact with the nasal, the eye mostly in the latter shield; prefrontal in contact with the rostral, both it and the supraocular being three to four times broader than long. Tail ending in a small spine, 28–34 scales round the body, the diameter of which is contained 40–60 times in the total length, 450–500 transverse rows of scales.

Brown above, paler below. In many individuals each scale of the back and sides has a pale yellow centre.

Total length 600 mm



Fig. 16 —Dorsal and lateral view of head of *Typhlops acutus*
l, labial, n, nasal, o, ocular, pro, preocular, r, rostral.

Range India, south of the Ganges Basin and south of Rajputana, west to Baroda and east to Calcutta. Rare south of lat 16°. The largest of all the Oriental species of *Typhlops*

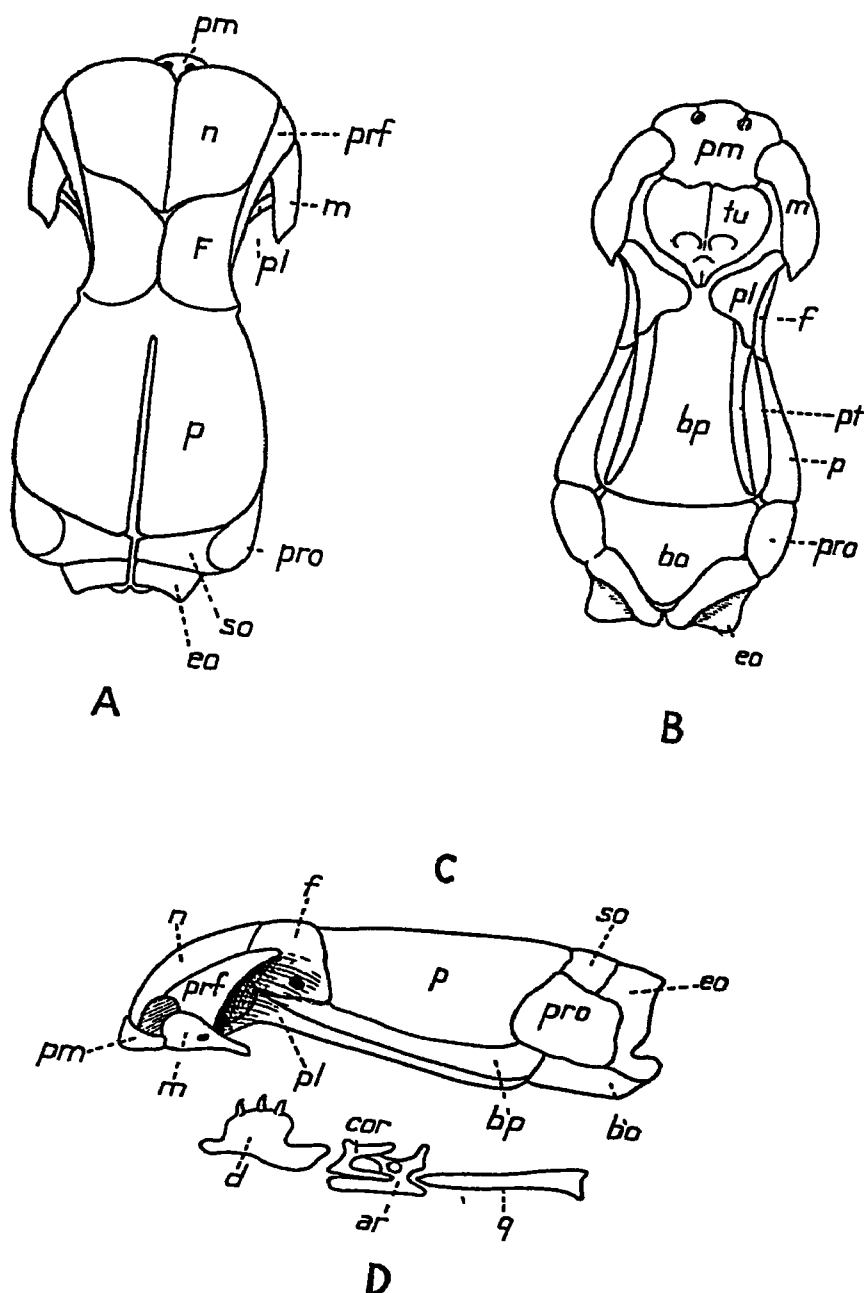


Fig 17—Skull of *Leptotyphlops distanti*. Drawn from a specimen stained with alizarin (BM Coll 99 3 20 17-20) \times about 15. A. Dorsal, B Ventral, C Lateral view. The mandibles have been removed. D Outer view of left mandible.

ar, articular, ba, basioccipital, bp, basisphenoid, cor, coronoid, d, dentary, eo, exoccipital, f, frontal, m, maxilla, n, nasal, p, parietal, pl, palatine, pm, premaxilla, prf, prefrontal, pro, prootic, pt, pterygoid, q, quadrate, so, supraoccipital, tu, turbinal.

Family LEPTOTYPHLOPIDÆ.

Leptotyphlopidae Stejneger, 1891, Proc US Nat Mus xiv, p 501.
Glaconidae Boulenger, 1890, F.B I p 242, and Cat Sn Brit
 Mus i, 1893, p 57.

Palato-maxillary arch incomplete, no ectopterygoid, maxilla bordering the mouth, in suture with the prefrontal and premaxilla, toothless, prefrontal forming a suture with the nasal; no supratemporal, mandible with coronoid bone, toothed, quadrate elongate, directed horizontally forwards. Pelvis present, consisting of ilium, ischium, and pubis, a vestigial femur usually present. Body cylindrical, of equal

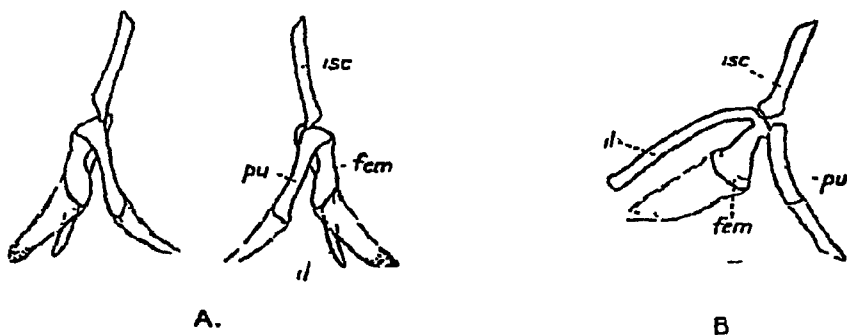


Fig 18—A Ventral view of pelvic girdle of *Leptotyphlops distanti*. Drawn from a specimen stained with alizarin. B Lateral view of right half of girdle.
 fem, femur; il, ilium, isc, ischium, pu, pubis. The cartilaginous continuations of the pubis and femur are shown.

diameter throughout, covered with uniform cycloid scales, eyes under the shields.

Range Africa, S W Asia, Southern U S A, Tropical America.

Small degenerate burrowing snakes bearing a close superficial resemblance to the Typhlopidae. The Indian species can be distinguished externally from *Typhlops* in having the nasal and ocular shields bordering the lip, an enlarged pre-anal plate, and in having only 14 scales round the body.

As in the Typhlopidae incomplete ossification of the bones of the cranium may occur. In the specimen of *Leptotyphlops nigricans* (= *distanti*), figured by Brock (1932), the parietals are fused into a single bone. In the specimen here figured (Brit Mus. Coll.), a fully grown individual, they are incompletely separated; the foramen magnum, which is very large,

is formed entirely by the exoccipital. In a specimen of *L. macrorhynchus* (Brit Mus Coll), stained with alizarin the whole of the top of the brain case appears unossified.

In the Leptotyphlopidae the pelvic girdle and hind limbs show less reduction than in any recent snakes. The vestigial femur in some species is covered with a horny spur and projects through a small slit in the skin on each side of the vent.

Genus LEPTOTYPHLOPS.

Leptotyphlops Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept p 24 (type *nigricans*), Brock, Anat Anz Jena, lxxiii, 9/10, 1932, p 177.

Glaucoma Gray, 1845, Cat Liz Brit Mus p 139 (type *nigricans*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 243, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 59, Essex, P Z S 1927, p 879, Werner, Mitt Zool, Mus Hamburg, xxiv, 1917, p 191, Haas, Zool Jb Jena, Anat lvi, 1, 1931, p 127.

Rostral, nasal, and ocular shields very large, all three bordering the lip, other head shields more or less distinctly enlarged, preanal enlarged, 14 scales round the body.

Range S W Asia, Africa, America. Two species in the Indian region.

Key to Species

Snout hooked, its lower surface (in front of the mouth) concave, diameter of body 80–110 times in the total length	[p 60 <i>macrorhynchus</i>
Snout rounded, diameter of body 55–80 times in the total length	[p 61, <i>blanfordi</i> ,

20 *Leptotyphlops macrorhynchus*.

Stenostoma macrorhynchum Jan, 1862, Arch Zool Anat Fis, Genova, i, p 190 (Sennar, Egypt, Sudan, Milan), and Icon Gen. Liv i, 1860, p 39, pl v, fig 12 and pl vi, fig 12 — *Glaucoma macrorhynchus*, Boulenger, Ann Mag Nat Hist (6) vi, 1890, p 92, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 61, Wall J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 796, and xxix, 1923, p 352.

Snout prominent, hooked, its lower surface (in front of the mouth) concave, rostral half as broad as the head, extending to the level of the eyes, nasal completely divided, its inferior portion bordering the lip, ocular bordering the lip between two labials, eye conspicuous, in the ocular, other head shields more or less distinctly enlarged, 14 scales round the body, the diameter of which is 80–110 times in the total length.

Very light brown or fawn in colour.

Total length 280, tail 20 mm (specimen from Jask, Persia).

Range Sind (Karachi), Baluchistan (Quetta), Persia, Arabia.

Whether the snake from India, Persia and Arabia is conspecific with the true *macrorhynchus* from Africa, cannot be decided without more material for comparison.

21 *Leptotyphlops blanfordi*.

Glauconia blanfordi Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 243 (Sind London), and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 66, Alcock & Finn, J A S Bengal, lxxv, 1896, p 561, Wall, J Bombay N H S x, 1911, p 1033, and xxx, 1923, p 351

Glauconia carltoni Barbour, 1908, Bull Mus C Z Harvard, l, p 316 (Amballa, Punjab, Harvard), Barbour & Loveridge, ibid lxxix, 1929, p 269

Like *macrorhynchus* in scale characters but the snout rounded, not concave inferiorly, and the body of slightly stouter proportions, 55-80 times in the total length.

Total length. 240, tail 20 mm (Sind)

Range Sind (Kotri, Hyderabad), Punjab (Amballa, Multan), N W F P (Jamrud Terah), Baluchistan (Sibi, *vide* Wall). Alcock & Finn record *blanfordi* from Koh-i-Malik Shah in the extreme north-west corner of Baluchistan, but the specimens are not now available for examination. They were said to be pink in life and very active

Family UROPELTIDÆ.

UROPELTS, ROUGH-TAILS

Uropeltacea J Müller, 1832, Zeitschr Physiol iv, p 270, Peters, Serp Fam Uropelt. 1861, p. 1, Hoffstetter, Bull Mus Hist Nat Paris, (2) 1939, p 426

Rhinophes Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept p 24

Uropeltidæ Gray, 1845, Cat Liz Brit Mus p 140, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 251, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 137, Procter, Ann Mag Nat Hist (9) xii, 1924, p 142, Baumeister, Zool. Jahrb Anat 1908, p 423, pl, and 1910, p 659, Haas, Zool Jahrb Jena, li, 1930, p 132, Radovanovic, Jena Zeitschr. Naturw lxxi, 1937, p 203

Bones of the skull solidly united, maxilla with from 6 to 8 teeth, the palatine with 3 or 4 minute teeth in *Platyplectrurus* and *Melanophidium*, absent in the other genera, prefrontal in contact with the nasal, quadrate very short, vertically placed, no supratemporal; no postorbital; mandible with coronoid bone, bearing 8 to 10 teeth

Head not distinct from neck, eye with round pupil, body cylindrical, rigid, tail very short. Four supralabials are constant throughout the family, and there is no loreal

In the Uropelts the cranial bones are more solidly united than in any other family of snakes, a consequence brought about no doubt by their fossorial habits. Without solid union of the bones no forcible burrowing would be possible. The occipital bones are firmly connected to one another, and to the prootic and the basisphenoid, so that in the fully grown individual the sutures cannot be distinguished. In the

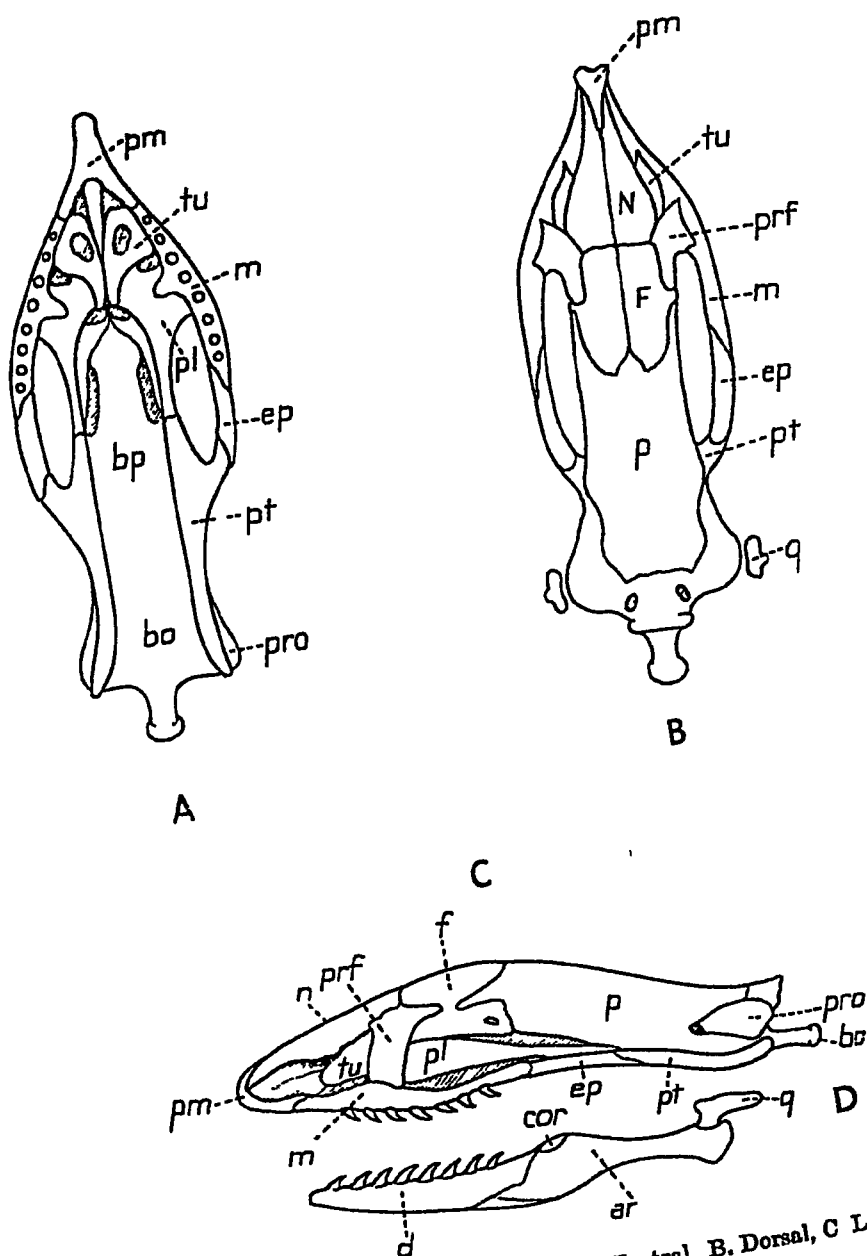


Fig 19—Skull of *Uropeltis grandis* A Ventral, B. Dorsal, C Lateral view, D Mandible \times about $4\frac{1}{2}$
 ar, articular, bo, basioccipital, bp, basisphenoid, cor, coronoid, d, dentary, ep, ectopterygoid (or transpalatine), f, frontal, m, maxilla, n, nasal, p, parietal, pl, palatine, pm, premaxilla, prf, prefrontal, pro, prootic, pt, pterygoid; q quadrate; tu., turbinal.

same way the premaxilla is united to the maxilla. The occipital condyle projects markedly beyond the back of the skull. Its structure and articulation with the atlas and axis have been described by Hoffstetter (1939)

The hemipenis is very small owing to the extreme shortness of the tail, and it is difficult to examine satisfactorily. Two entirely different types of hemipenis, at least, can be distinguished. In *Melanophidium punctatum* it is comparatively short and thick, and is furnished with a series of long convoluted folds through which the sulcus spermaticus winds (when seen in the organ at rest), there are no spines. In *Uropeltis grandis* the organ is longer and more slender and is finely spinose throughout. The sulcus is not bifurcated.

The members of this family are confined to the Peninsula of India and Ceylon, in India their centre is in the Western Ghats and the extreme south; one species only, namely *Uropeltis ellioti*, extends its range into the east. The majority of the species are extremely local in their distribution. All are of small size, few of them exceeding a foot in length.

To Col. Beddome, more than any other naturalist, we owe our knowledge of this family, and the magnificent collection made by him is now in the British Museum. The secretive habits of these snakes often makes it difficult to obtain them without careful searching, and it is probable, in districts that have not been investigated, that new forms will yet be found.

They inhabit the mountainous districts, often at very high altitudes, and the forested areas at the foot of the mountains, living under logs or stones or buried in the earth. After heavy rain they are often seen on the roads or in gardens.

In soft earth they can burrow quickly and easily, digging their way into the soil with the snout. This habit has led to marked development of the muscles of the trunk, particularly the anterior ones, and in many species the thickness of the fore part of the body is greater than that of the head. In addition there is a lateral bend in the neck, so that the long axis of the head is not in a line with that of the body (fig. 23).

The purpose of the peculiar tail of *Rhinophis* and some species of *Uropeltis* has not yet been satisfactorily explained. McCann (1924) states that *U. macrolepis* uses it as a stopper to plug up the entrance to the hole where he is buried. Nicholls (1929) says that "the purpose of this shield is to allow the snake to obtain a purchase as it pushes its way through the soil." On the other hand, Wall writing of *U. ceylonicus*, which has quite as efficient a "stopper" as *macrolepis*, says that "nothing in its behaviour suggested any use for the tail."

He remarks also upon the frequency with which the end of the tail in freshly caught specimens is coated with mud

The evolution of the head and tail have not followed one another *pari passu*, that is to say, the species which show the greatest specialization of the tail do not always show the greatest change of the head shields. In *Platyplectrurus*, the least specialized genus, the normal head shields are present, adaptation to a fossorial life has led to reduction in the size of the eye, the formation of an ocular shield, and to the development of a large and beak-like rostral shield. This development culminates in such forms as *Uropeltis macrorhynchus* and *Rhinophis oxyrhynchus*

The so-called ocular shield is formed by the union of the supra- and postoculars and subsequent growth of the two shields, so that the eye lies completely within the margin of the shield. In no species is there any recess between the eyeball and the orbit, as in most snakes, the transparent "window" of the eye being united with the surrounding structures

The evolution of the tail in the genus *Uropeltis* has proceeded along two lines. In one there is flattening of its upper extremity, with modification of the scales covering that part, a type which leads to the obliquely truncate and highly specialized disc of the *macrolepis-broughani* group (Sect. II). In the other (Sect. III, *maculata-grandis*) the tail is cylindrical or compressed, the caudal scales are not modified, and the terminal scute ends in a transverse ridge with two points placed side by side. In *melanogaster* and *phillipsi*, however, the scute has become convex, it is higher than long and the terminal points have almost disappeared, thus foreshadowing the caudal shield of *Rhinophis*

In disposition the Uropeltis are quiet and inoffensive. They do not bite when handled, however much they are irritated, nor do they appear to have any fear. When poked up they do not try to escape, but will twine themselves round the fingers or a stick, and remaining in that position can be carried long distances. They have been known to eat immediately after being caught. They are easily kept in captivity, feeding chiefly upon worms and the soft-bodied larvae of insects.

As far as is known all the species are viviparous, producing from 3 to 8 young at a time.

Some of the species are brilliantly coloured with red, orange, or yellow, a blue or green colour is unknown amongst them; the black forms are remarkable for their iridescence.

It is unfortunate that Gray's name *Silybura*, which has been so long in use cannot stand, but Fitzinger's action, in fixing the type of *Uropeltis* two years earlier is quite clear.

Key to the Genera

- I. A mental groove MELANOPHIDIUM,
 II. No mental groove [p. 65
 A. Eye distinct from the surrounding
 shields Terminal caudal scute de- [p 67
 pressed, with lateral ridges PLATYPLECTRURUS,
 B. Eye not distinct from the surrounding
 shields Terminal caudal scute simple,
 without ridges, compressed TERETRURUS, p 69
 Terminal caudal scute ending in two superposed
 points, which may be simple or compound PLECTRURUS, p 71
 Tail usually obliquely truncate, the truncated
 portion covered with thickened differen-
 tiated scales, terminal caudal scute ending
 in a transverse ridge or two points side by
 side UROFELTIS, p 73
 Tail ending in a convex or flattened, rounded,
 rugose shield RHINOPHIS, p '87.
 End of tail with a large, subcircular, flat, spinose [p 93
 shield above PSEUDOTYPHOLOS,

Genus MELANOPHIDIUM.

Melanophidium Günther, 1864, Rept Brit. Ind p 193 (type
wynaudense). Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886,
 p 29, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 272, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1
 1893, p 163

A mental groove Eye in the ocular shield, no supra-
 ocular or temporal shield Tail feebly compressed, caudal

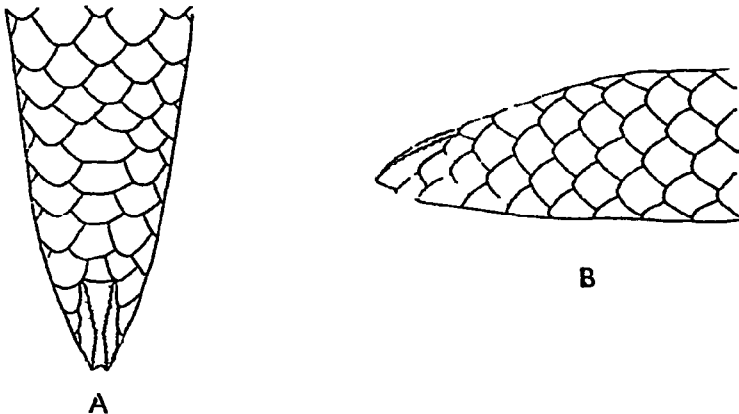


Fig. 20 —Tail of *Melanophidium punctatum*
 A Dorsal, B Lateral view.

scales smooth, terminal scute with lateral or superior ridges
 which converge to the tip Scales in 15 rows

Key to the Species

- I Suture between the ocular and frontal less than one-third the length of the latter shield
- Ventrals and outer 2-3 scale-rows white with a black centro *punctatum*, p 66
- Belly entirely black with a broad white stripe on each side *bilineatum*, p 66
- II Suture between the ocular and frontal more than one-third the length of the latter shield
- Black, with or without large yellow spots below *wynaadense*, p 67

22 *Melanophidium punctatum*.

Melanophidium punctatum Beddome, 1871, Madras Monthly J Med Sci p 401 (Travancore, London), Günther, P Z S 1875, p 230, pl xxxii, fig B, Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvi, 1886, p 31, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 273, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 164, Ferguson, J Bombay N H S x, 1895, p 70, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxiii, 1914, p 377, and xxix, 1923, p 360

Snout obtuse, rostral small, the portion visible from above equal to or less than half the distance between it and the frontal, frontal variable in size, longer than broad, the length of the suture between it and the supraocular 3 or 4 times in the length of the frontal, eye one-third the length of the ocular shield V 180-198, nearly twice as broad as the adjacent scales, C 11-18 Tail compressed, caudal scales smooth, terminal scute mostly on the upper surface of the tail, with two parallel ridges above forming two (sometimes four) points at the tip In the young the scute is simply pointed and without ridges

Iridescent black above, ventrals and outer two or three scale-rows white with black centres

Total length 560, diameter 14 mm

Range S India Travancore Hills, 4,000-5,000 feet, Anamalai Hills Telewady, Goa Frontier

23 *Melanophidium bilineatum*.

Melanophidium bilineatum Beddome, 1870, Madras Monthly J Med Sci p 169 (Wynaad*, London), Günther, P Z S 1875, p 230, pl xxxii, fig A, Beddome Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvi, 1886, p 30, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 273, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 164, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 360

Similar to the preceding, but the eye smaller, its diameter

* The Wynaad, referred to so often by Beddome and writers of his date, but not found on recent atlases, is a highland area in the Malabar District, between Coorg and the Nilgiri Hills

one-fourth the length of the ocular shield, and the ventrals a little broader, twice as broad as the adjacent scales V 188-200, C 15-17. Tail as in the young of *punctatum*

Iridescent black above and below, the two colours separated by a broad, yellow stripe along scale-row 2 and the adjacent halves of rows 1 and 3; it may or may not have a series of small black dots

Range Known from three specimens which are apparently not yet fully grown They were collected on Peria and Tirihoot Peak, west of Manantoddy

24 *Melanophidium wynaudense*.

Plectrurus wynaudense Beddome, 1863, P Z S p 228 (nr Manantoddy London) — *Melanophidium wynaudense*, Günther, Rept. Brit Ind 1864, p 194, pl xvii, fig 3, Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (3) xvii, 1886, p 30, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 272, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 163, Wall, J. Bombay N. H S xxvi, 1919, p 560, and xxix, 1923, p 360

Similar to *punctatum*, but the suture between the ocular and the frontal more than one-third the length of the latter shield Eye usually a little smaller V 170-185, C 10-18 Terminal caudal scute with two superposed lateral ridges which meet on a transverse ridge at the tip

Iridescent black all over, or with large white or yellow spots on the belly

Total length 440, diameter 10 mm "

Range S India Manantoddy dist, Coorg, 3,000-5,000 feet

Genus PLATYPLECTRURUS.

Platyplectrurus Gunther, 1868 Ann Mag Nat Hist (4) i, p 414 (type *trilineatus*), Boulenger F B I 1890, p 273, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1 1896 p 165. Procter, Ann Mag Nat Hist (9), xiii, 1924, p 141

Walla Werner, 1925, Sitz Ber Akad Wiss. Wien, cxxxiv, p 53 (type *inexpectata*=*madurensis*), Smith, Ann Mag. Nat Hist (10) i, 1928, p 496

No mental groove Eye distinct from the surrounding shields, a supraocular, a postocular, and a temporal shield Tail compressed, the scales smooth or nearly so; terminal scute depressed, with lateral ridges which meet in a point. Scales in 15 rows

Key to the Species

Supraocular longer than the prefrontals, dorsum with three black longitudinal lines	<i>trilineatus</i> , p 68
Supraocular not longer than the prefrontals, uniform purplish brown above	<i>madurensis</i> , p 69

25 *Platyplectrurus trilineatus*.

Plectrurus ? trilineatus Beddome, 1867, Madras Quart J Med. Sci p 14, fig (Anamallays London), and J Soc Bibliog Nat Hist London, 1940, 1, p 315 fig (reprint).—*Platyplectrurus trilineatus*, Günther, Ann Mag Nat Hist (4) 1, 1868, p 413; Beddome, ibid (5) xvii, 1886, p 32, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 274, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 165, Wall, J Bombay N H S. xxix, 1923, p 360

Platyplectrurus bilineatus Beddome, 1886, Ann. Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, p. 33 (Madras Hills, London)

Snout obtuse; rostral small, the portion visible above equal to half the distance between it and the frontal, frontal longer than broad, usually shorter than the parietals; supra-

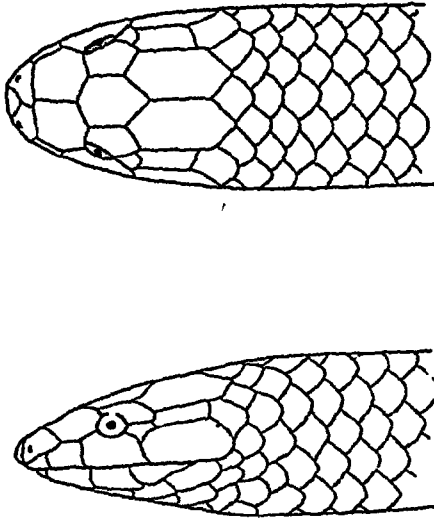


Fig 21 — *Platyplectrurus madurensis*

oculars longer than the prefrontals, ventrals one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales V 163-175, C 8-16 Tail more or less compressed, the scales smooth or nearly so, terminal scute depressed, flat beneath, with a lateral ridge on each side, the two meeting in a point, a less distinct median ridge above, in the male the scute larger and the ridges more conspicuous than in the female

When young, light brown with three broad dark brown stripes above, a vertebral and two lateral, or with a series of dark brown lines, head dark brown above with a light brown spot on each side of the neck, as age advances the central portion of each dark stripe acquires a series of black spots, and the adult is reddish-brown or brick-red above with three continuous or interrupted black longitudinal lines,

rarely the vertebral one is absent ; lower parts light brown, the edge of each scale being whitish

Total length 390, diameter 11 mm

Range. S India Anaimalai Hills ; Travancore

26 *Platyplectrurus madurensis*.

Platyplectrurus madurensis Beddome, 1877, P Z S p 167 (Palni Hills, London), and Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p. 33 ; Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 274, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 166, Ferguson, J Bombay N H S xiv, p 386, Wall, ibid xxix, 1923, pp 360 and 396

Wallia inexpectata 1925, Werner, Sitz Akad Wiss Wien, cxxxiv, p 53 (type loc unknown, Vienna), Smith, Ann Mag Nat Hist (10) 1, 1928, p 496

Similar to *trilineatus*, but the frontal shorter, always shorter than the parietals, and the supraoculars not longer than the prefrontals

Nac.eous purplish-brown above, ventrals and the two adjoining rows of scales white in the centre, purplish-brown at the edges V 158-175, C 10-15

Total length 440, diameter 13 mm

Range S India Palni and Travancore Hills, 4,000-6,000 ft.

Genus *TERETRURUS*.

Teretrurus Beddome, 1886, Ann Mag Nat Hist xvii, p 28 (type *sanguineus*)

Brachyophidium Wall, 1921, J Bombay N. H S xxviii, p 41, pl (type *rhodogaster*), Procter, Ann Mag Nat Hist (9) xiii, 1924, p 141, Wall, ibid (9) xiv, 1924, p 200

Platyplectrurus (in part) Boulenger, F B I p. 273, and Cat

No mental groove Eye distinct or not from the surrounding shields, a supraocular present or absent, a temporal shield Tail more or less compressed, caudal scales smooth or feebly multicarinate, terminal scute simple, compressed and pointed Scales in 15 rows

Both Procter and Wall in their discussion of *Brachyophidium* appear to have overlooked the fact that the character of the terminal scute had been already recognized by Beddome

Key to the Species.

A supraocular and a temporal shield	<i>sanguineus</i> , p 69
No supraocular shield	<i>rhodogaster</i> , p 70.

27 *Teretrurus sanguineus*.

Plectrurus sanguineus Beddome, 1867, Madras Quart J Med. Sc p 14, fig (Anamallays; London), and J Soc Bibliog Nat Hist. London, 1940, 1, p 315, fig (reprint) — *Teretrurus sanguineus*

- Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5 xvii, 1896, p 28—*Platyplectrurus sanguineus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 274, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 166, Ferguson, J Bombay N. H S x, 1895, p 71, Wall, ibid xxix, 1923, p 360
Platyplectrurus heustoni, Beddome, 1876, P Z S p 701 (Wynaad, London)
Plectrurus scabricauda, Theobald, 1876, Cat Rept Brit Ind p. 136 (Anamallays type lost)
Tetrurus travancoricus, Beddome, 1886, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xii, p. 29 (Travancore, London)

Snout obtusely rounded, portion of the rostral visible from above not longer than the distance between it and the prefrontal, frontal much longer than broad, as long as the parietals, a supraocular, a postocular, and a temporal shield, eye more than half the length of the ocular shield V 120-150, nearly twice as broad as the adjacent scales, C 5-9 Tail compressed, caudal scales smooth or feebly bi- or tricarinate in the female, all the caudals and last ventrals more or less distinctly multicarinate in the males, terminal scute simple, compressed, smooth or with minute tubercles, ending in a single point

Total length 230, diameter 9 mm

Brown or purplish-red above, belly red, uniform or spotted or blotched with black

Range S India Wynaad, Anaimalai Hills, Travancore, 3,000-7,400 feet

28 *Tetrurus rhodogaster*.

- Brachyophidum rhodogaster* Wall, 1921, J. Bombay N H S xxviii, p 41 (Palnai Hills, London), and xxviii, 1922, p 556, and xxix, 1923, pp 359 & 393, and Ann Mag Nat Hist (9) xii, 1924, p 200, Procter ibid (9) xii, 1924, p 140

Snout subacuminate, portion of the rostral visible from above less than the distance between it and the prefrontals, which are much longer than the nasals, frontal much longer than broad, longer than the parietals, supraocular and postocular united into a single shield, a temporal shield, eye half the length of the ocular shield V 139-145, twice as broad as the adjacent scales, C 7-10 Tail compressed, upper caudal scales smooth or feebly bi- or tricarinate, terminal scute simple, compressed, ending in a point

Blackish-brown above, ventrals and outer row of scales whitish (red in life)

Total length 210, diameter 7 mm

Range S India Palm Hills

Genus **PLECTRURUS**.

Plectrurus Dumeril, 1851, Cat Coll Rept p 224. Dum & Bibr.,
Érp Gén vu, 1854, p 166 (type *perroteti*)

Maudia Gray, 1858, P Z S p 261 (no type given)

Plecturina Gray, l c s p 265

Pseudoplectrurus Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 270 (type *canarius*)

No mental groove Eye not distinct from the surrounding shields a supraocular present or absent, no temporal shield Tail compressed, caudal scales keeled, terminal scute compressed, with two superposed, simple bifid or trifid points Scales in 15 rows

Key to the Species

I A separate supraocular shield

A Terminal scute ending in two simple points

perroteti, p 71.

B Terminal scute ending in two bi- or tricuspid transverse ridges

Reddish-purple above, uniform *guentheri*, p 72.

Golden above, with black spots or narrow cross-bars

aureus, p 72

II Supraocular shield united with the ocular

canarius, p. 72.

29 *Plectrurus perroteti*.

Plectrurus perroteti Dum & Bibr, 1854, Érp Gen p 167, pl lix, fig 4 (Nilgiris Paris), Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 193; Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p. 25; Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 271, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 161, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxxi, 1919, p 558, and xxxi. 1923, p 359, Roux, Rev Suisse Zool xxxv, 1928, p 442

Plectrurus davidsoni Beddome, 1886, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, p 25 (Anamallays, London), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 271, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 162

Snout obtusely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above shorter than the distance between it and the frontal, frontal much longer than broad, as long as the parietals, supraocular small, twice as long as broad, eye half, or a little less than half, the length of the ocular shield V 152-180, one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 6-12 Tail compressed, the scales multicarinate, terminal scute compressed, tuberculate and ending in two simple superposed points

Brown or dark purplish-brown, paler below than above, uniform on each scale with a reddish or yellowish centre, young usually with a yellow line on the tail above

Total length 440, diameter 11 mm

Range S India Nilgiris, Anamalai Hills Common in the Nilgiris between 4,500 and 6,000 feet Viviparous, producing from 3-6 young at a time. They are born in July and August

30. *Plectrurus guentheri*.

Plectrurus guentheri Beddome, 1863, P Z S. p. 228, pl xxvii (Walaghat, W. Nilgiris, London), Beddome, Ann Mag Nat. Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 26, Boulenger, F.B.I 1890, p 271, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 162, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S xxix, 1923, p 359

Head shields as in *perroteti*, eye half the length of the ocular shield V 171-175, one and a third to one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 10-12 Tail as in *perroteti*, but the terminal scute with two superposed bi- or tricuspid transverse ridges

Bright reddish-purple above, this colour descending as triangular markings on the sides, which, like the belly, are yellow, the triangular markings may extend across the belly

Total length · 375, diameter 9 mm

Range S India Sispara Ghat on the Western side of the Nilgiri Hills

31 *Plectrurus aureus*.

Plectrurus aureus Beddome, 1880, P. Z S p 182 (Chambra Hill, London), and Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 26; Boulenger, F B. I 1890, p 272, and Cat. Sn Brit Mus. i, 1893, p 162, Wall, J Bombay N. H. S xxix, 1923, p 360.

Like *guentheri* in morphological characters but the colour pattern quite different V 164-177, C 8-12

Golden above, lighter below, the dorsal scales, except the outer one or two rows, edged with violet The back is

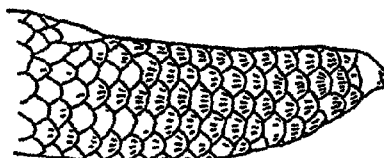


Fig 22—Side view of tail of *Plectrurus aureus*

marked with narrow, irregular violet-black cross-bars, which may be reduced to a few scattered spots, belly much ornamented by violet-black cross-bars or alternating spots.

Total length 400, diameter 9 mm

Range Chambra Hill, Malabar

32 *Plectrurus canarius*.

Silybura canaria Beddome 1870, Madras Month J Med Sci. p 170 (Kudra Mukh, nr Mangalore, London)—*Plectrurus canarius*, Günther, P Z S 1875, p 229, Beddome, Ann Mag, Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 27—*Pseudoplectrurus canarius*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 270, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 160, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 359

Snout obtusely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above shorter than the distance between it and the frontal, frontal much longer than broad, as long as or longer than the parietals, no supraocular, the eye completely surrounded by the ocular shield, one-third its length V 172-188, not twice as broad as the adjacent scales, C 6-13 Tail compressed, the scales smooth or feebly multicarinate; terminal scute ending in two, single or bifid, superposed points

Brownish-violet, each scale usually paler in the centre, with or without small yellow spots on the back, lips yellow Some yellow blotches on each side of the anterior part of the body lower surface of tail yellow, with or without a black median streak, a light vertebral line on the tail often present

Total length 430, diameter 10 mm

Range S India S Canara, Mysore, 6,000 feet

Genus UROPELTIS.

Uropeltis (in part) Cuvier, 1829, Règne Anim 2nd ed 11, p 76;

Fitzinger, Syst Rept 1843, p 24 (type *ceylanicus*)

Siluboura Gray, 1845, Cat Liz Brit Mus p 142 (type *elliotti*) —

Silybura, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 257, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus 1, 1893, p 144

Coloburus Dumeril, 1851, Cat Coll Rept p 224 (type *ceylanicus*). —

Crealia Gray, 1858, P Z S p 264 (type *melanogaster*)

Eye in the ocular shield, no supraocular, no temporal; no mental groove Tail cylindrical or obliquely truncate, the terminal scute ending in two points side by side or simply a transverse ridge

Key to the Species

- I Tail obliquely truncate above, the truncated portion small, feebly convex, never quite flat, the scales covering it more or less thickened and multicarinate

Scales in 17 rows

- A Portion of rostral visible from above equal to the distance between it and the middle of the frontal

V. 144-176 Brown with small yellow spots below

elliotti, p 75

V. 184-195 Black, with large yellow spots below

nitidus, p 76.

V 185-234 Brown, usually with transverse series of yellow, black-edged ocelli

ocellatus, p 76.

- B Rostral ridged above, the part visible longer than the distance between it and the middle of the frontal

V. 155-168 Belly brown with yellow spots

dindigalensis, p. 77.

V. 180-188 Rostral as long as the distance between it and the parietals

beddomei, p 78

V 203-213 Rostral as long as the distance between it and the hinder end of the parietals

[p 78.
macrorhynchus,

Scales in 19 rows

- A lateral series of large yellow spots often extending across the belly
- II Tail obliquely truncate above, the truncated portion large, flat or concave, forming a circumscribed disc, covered with thickened bi-, tri-, or multicarinate scales

noud-masoni, p. 79

Scales in 15 rows

- V. 127-140 *macrolepis*, p. 79

Scales in 17 rows

- A Portion of rostral visible from above not or not much longer than its distance from the frontal
- V 119-146 Belly yellowish or brown, or yellow and brown *cylanicus* p. 80
- V. 127-128: 146-157. Belly yellowish, with large black or brown blotches or cross-bars *arcticeps*, p. 81.
- V. 127-136 3 to 6 large red spots on each side of the body in front, and 2 more on the tail [p. 81.
- V. 165-172 A broad yellow (red) stripe along each side of the body *rubromaculatus*,
- rubrolineatus*, p. 82
- B. Portion of rostral visible from above distinctly longer than its distance from the frontal
- V 138-157 A yellow streak along each side of the body in front *philpsoni*, p. 82.
- V. 139-156 Yellowish below with dark spots or cross-bars *myhendree*, p. 83.

Scales in 19 rows.

- Rostral much produced posteriorly, almost separating the nasals *broughami*, p. 83.
- III Tail more or less compressed, distinctly rounded above, the upper scales keeled or smooth (fig. 25, p. 80)

Scales in 17 rows.

- A. Rostral not completely separating the nasals, snout obtuse
- V 154-165 Black with large red spots on the side of the neck and tail *maculatus*, p. 83.
- V 161-180 Brown with small yellow spots below and on the sides *petersi*, p. 84.
- V 174-188 Purplish-brown with transverse series of yellow black-edged ocelli *liura*, p. 84
- B. Rostral completely separating the nasals, snout pointed
- V 161-180 Belly brown with yellow spots or cross-bars, or all yellow *pulneyensis*, p. 85
- V 141-166 A lateral yellow stripe, belly black *melanogaster*, p. 86
- V. 197-210 Rostral as long as the distance between it and the hinder end of the frontal *philippsi*, p. 87

Scales in 19 rows

- Rostral usually not separating the nasals ... *grandis*, p. 85.

UROPELTIS.

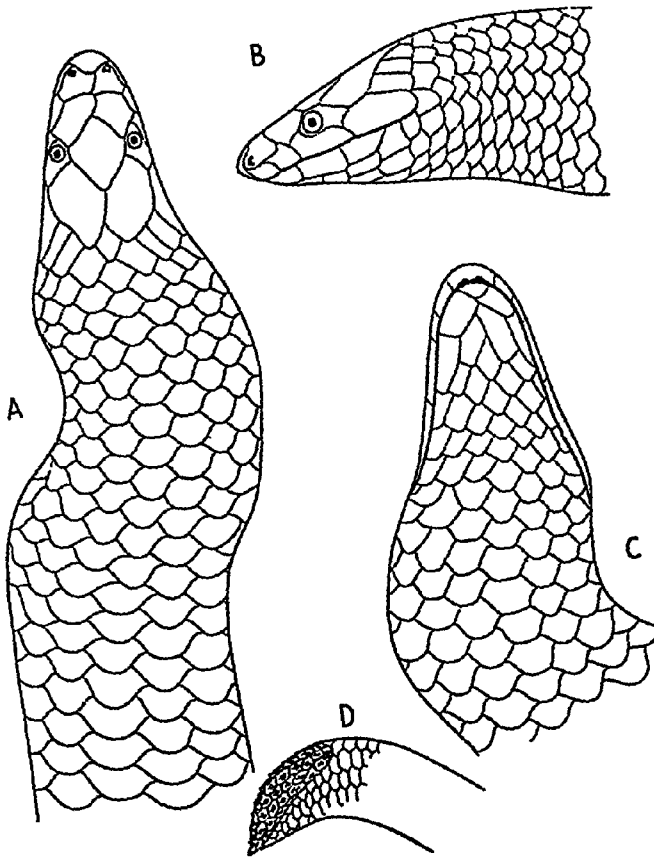


Fig 23—*Uropeltis ceylanicus* (B M 74 + 29 86-87) A Dorsal,
B Lateral, and C Ventral view of head D Three-quarter
view of tail

33. *Uropeltis ellioti*.

Siluboura ceylonicus (not of Cuvier) Gray, 1845, Cat. Lizards Brit. Mus. p. 142 (Madras. London)
Siluboura ellioti Gray, 1858, P. Z. S. p. 262, fig.—*Silybura ellioti*, Peters, Serp. Fam. Uropelt. 1861, p. 21, Günther, P. Z. S. 1875, p. 228, Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 265, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 154, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxx, 1923, p. 357, Beddome (in part), Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (5) xvii, 1886, p. 20

Snout acutely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above as long as the distance between it and the middle of the frontal, separating the nasals for more than half their length, eye one-third to half the length of the ocular shield. Scales

in 17 rows V 144-176, one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales C 5-11 Tail obliquely truncate, the truncated portion not perfectly flat, the disc well-defined, covered with thick, bi-, tri- or multicarinate scales, terminal scute large, depressed, with small tubercles above, ending in a transverse ridge with two points

Dark brown, uniform or with small yellow spots above, and larger ones below, a more or less distinct yellow line on each side of the neck, a yellow stripe on each side of the tail connected with its fellow by a transverse bar across the anal region

Total length 250, diameter 7 mm

Range Hills of Peninsular India Western Ghats south of the Goa Gap to Tinnevely Eastern Ghats (Shevaroy, Coimbatore district, S. Arcot, Jalarpet, Vizagapatam district, Ganjam)

34 *Uropeltis nitidus*.

Silybura nitida Beddome, 1878, P Z S p 154 (Anamallays, London), and Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 19; Boulenger, F B I 1890, p. 263, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 151, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 357.

Snout acutely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above as long as the distance between it and the middle of the frontal, separating the nasals for more than half their length, eye less than half the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows; V 184-195, one and a third times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 5-11 End of tail slightly flattened above, without well-defined disc, the terminal scales strongly multicarinate; terminal scute as in *elliotti*

Black with distant large yellow spots below, which usually alternate, but sometimes meet to form cross-bars

Total length 340, diameter 10 mm

Range Anamalai Hills (Cochin side), 4,000-5,000 feet

35 *Uropeltis ocellatus*.

Silybura ocellata Beddome, 1863, P Z S p 225 (Wala Ghat, Nilgiris, London), and Madras J Med Sc vi, 1863, p. 46, fig; Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 190, pl xvii, fig E, Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 17, Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 262, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 150, Ferguson, J Bombay N H S x, 1895, p 70, Wall, ibid xxv, 1918, p 632, col pl and xxvi, p 557, and xxix, 1923, p 357

Silybura ochracea Beddome, 1878, P Z. S p 801, and Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 17 (Anamalais, London)

Silybura dupeni Beddome, 1878, P Z S p 801 (Nelampati, Anamalais, London)

Snout acutely pointed, portion of rostral visible from

above as long as the distance between it and the middle of the frontal, separating the nasals for more than half their length, eye one-fifth to one-third the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows, V 185-234, one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 6-11 Tail as in *nitidus*

Yellowish or brown above, almost uniform or with trans-

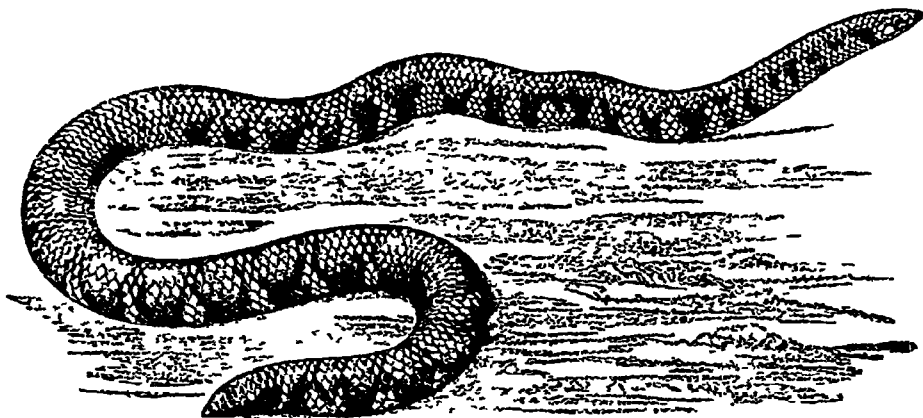


Fig 24—*Uropeltis ocellatus* (After Boulenger, F B I 1890)

verse series of small, yellow, black-edged ocelli, belly brown with large yellow spots or cross-bars, or yellow mottled or blotched with brown

Total length · 530, diameter 15 mm

Range Western Ghats south of the Goa Gap, common in the Nilgiri and Anaimalai Hills

Viviparous, producing from 3 to 5 young at a time

36 *Uropeltis dindigalensis*.

Silybura dindigalensis Beddome, 1877, P Z S p 167 (Sirumallays, near Dindigal, London), and Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 13, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 264, and Cat Sn. Brit. Mus 1, 1893, p 152, Wall, J Bombay N. H S xxix, 1923, p 357

Snout acutely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above longer than the distance between it and the middle of the frontal, separating the nasals for more than half their length, eye one-third the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows, V 155-168, one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 5-10 Tail as in *elliotti*

Dirty yellowish above, the scales more or less thickly speckled with brown, or with brown spots, belly dark brown, with yellow spots or irregular cross-bars; a yellow streak on

the lips, continued along each side of the neck, tail yellow below with a large brown spot behind the vent

Total length 370, diameter 12 mm

Range S India Sirumalai Hills, Madura district, 4,000-5,000 feet

37 *Uropeltis beddomi*.

Silybura beddomi Günther, 1862, Ann Mag Nat Hist. (3) ix, p 56 (Anamallays, London), and Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 190, pl xvii, fig F, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 265, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 153, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 357

Silybura ellioti (in part), Beddome, 1886, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, p 20

Snout acutely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above as long as the distance between it and the posterior extremity of the frontal shield, separating the nasals for more than half their length; eye one-third the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows, V 180-188, one and a third times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 6-7. Tail as in *ellioti*

Brown above, the median 6 or 8 dorsal scale-rows with minute yellow spots, these are on the sides of the scales and form more or less distinct longitudinal lines, lower parts lighter brown with yellowish spots, which are confined to the posterior margins of the scales; a yellow streak on each side of the neck, a yellow bar across the anal region

Total length. 250, diameter 7 mm

Range S India Anamalai Hills

38 *Uropeltis macrorhynchus*.

Silybura macrorhyncha Beddome, 1877, P Z S p 167 (above Ponachi, London), and Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 19, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 264, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 153, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 357, Roux, Rev Suisse Zool xxxv, 1928, p 441

Snout acutely pointed, rostral strongly ridged above, strongly projecting, the portion visible from above as long as the distance between it and the end of the parietals, separating the nasals for more than half their length, eye one-fourth to one-third the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows, V 203-213, one and a third times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 6 Tail as in *ellioti*

Upper parts uniform brown, lower parts brown and yellow, the latter colour confined to the posterior half of the scale, a yellow streak from the mouth along each side of the neck, another on each side of the lower surface of the tail, connected with its fellow by a cross-bar on the anal region

Total length 740, diameter 13 mm

Range S India. Anaimalai Hills, 3,000-4,000 feet

39 *Uropeltis wood-masoni*.

Silybura melanogaster (not of Gray) Günther, 1875, P. Z. S. p. 227, pl. xxxi, fig. A (Palni Hills; London)

Silybura wood-masoni Theobald, 1876, Cat. Rept. Brit. Ind. p. 135 (Palni Hills, Calcutta)

Silybura nigra Beddome, 178, P. Z. S. p. 154, and Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (5) xvii, 1886, p. 12 (Palni Hills, London), Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 263, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 151, Wall, J. Bombay, N. H. S. xxix, 1923, pp. 359 and 388

Snout acutely pointed; portion of rostral visible from above as long as or longer than the distance between it and the middle of the frontal, sometimes completely separating the nasals, eye one-third to one-half the length of the ocular shield. Scales in 19 rows, V 166-183, one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 6-11. Tail as in *nitidus*.

Black, brown or dark violet above, uniform or with transverse series of small, round, yellow spots or ocelli, a lateral series of large irregular bright yellow spots often extending across the belly, or the belly entirely black.

Total length . 270, diameter 10 mm

Range S. India, Anaimalai and Palni Hills, Travancore, Tinnevely, one example from the Nilgiris

Wall (1923) states that it is the commonest snake in the Palni Hills above 6,000 feet

Silybura wood-masoni has been referred to the synonymy of *pulneyensis*. The type, however, is still in existence and in good condition. It is an undoubted example of the snake usually called *nigra*.

40 *Uropeltis macrolepis*.

Silybura macrolepis Peters, 1861, Serp. Fam. Uropelt. p. 904 (type loc. unknown, London); Günther, Rept. Brit. Ind. 1864, p. 189, pl. xvii, fig. B, Beddome, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (5) xvii, 1886, p. 24, Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 269, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 159, Wall, J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. xix, 1909, p. 756, and xxix, 1923, p. 356; McCann, ibid. xxix, 1924, p. 1062, fig.

Snout rounded, portion of rostral visible from above distinctly less than its distance from the frontal, eye usually more than half the length of the ocular shield. Scales in 15 rows, V 128-140, one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales; C 7-10. End of tail obliquely truncate above, the truncated portion flat or concave, covered with thickened bi- or tricarinate scales, forming a disc, one and a half to two times as long as broad; terminal caudal scute large, depressed with small spines above, ending in a transverse ridge with two points.

Black or dark purplish-brown, each scale with a light margin; a short, broad, yellow or orange stripe on the lips

and sides of the neck, continued as large spots on the anterior part of the body, and sometimes as smaller ones throughout its whole length, a broad yellow or orange stripe on each side of the tail. A specimen in the British Museum, locality unknown, has a broad orange stripe occupying three scale-rows along each flank throughout the whole body.

Total length 300, diameter 12 mm

Range Bombay Hills between lats $18^{\circ} 7'$ and $19^{\circ} 7' N$

Very common in Mahableshwar during the rains according to McCann (1924)

41. *Uropeltis ceylanicus*.

Uropeltis ceylanicus Cuvier, 1829, *Reg. Anim.* 2nd ed. ii. p. 70 ("Ceylon", Paris).—*Coloburus ceylanicus*, Dum. & Bibr.

Hist. Nat. Rept. vii, 1854, p. 164, pl. lxx, fig. 3.—*Silybura ceylanica*, Gunther, *P. Z. S.* 1876, p. 228.

Silybura brevis Günther, 1862, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (3) ix, p. 56, and *Rept. Brit. Ind.* 1864, p. 192, pl. xvii, fig. D (Anamalais, London). Boulenger, *F. B. I.* 1890, p. 268, and *Cat. Rept. Brit. Mus.* i, 1893, p. 158; Ferguson, *J. Bombay N. H. S.* x, 1895, p. 70; Wall, *ibid.* xxvi, 1919, p. 558, and xxix, 1923, p. 358, text-figs.

Silybura shortii Beddome, 1863, *P. Z. S.* p. 225, pl. xxv, fig. 1 (Shevaroy Hills, London); Gunther, *Rept. Brit. Ind.* 1864, p. 191, pl. xxvii, fig. G.

Silybura nilgherrensis Beddome, 1863, *P. Z. S.* p. 226, pl. xxvi, fig. 1, and *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (5) xvii, 1886, p. 14 (Nilgiris, 7,000 feet, London).

Silybura bicatenata Gunther, 1864, *Rept. Brit. Ind.* p. 191, pl. xvii, fig. H (Deccan, London).

Silybura nilgherrensis var. *annulata* Beddome, 1886, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (5) xvii, p. 15 (Wynaad, Malabar, London).

Snout obtusely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above distinctly less than its distance from the frontal, eye usually more than half the length of the ocular shield. Scales in 17 rows, V 119-146, and one a half times as broad as the adjacent scales; C 8-12. Tail as in *macrolepis*.

Brownish or blackish above, uniform, or with yellowish spots transversely arranged (*shortii*), or with a yellow lateral stripe (*bicatenata*), belly yellowish, with or without dark brown or black spots, or entirely brown or black, lower surface of tail brown or black in the middle, yellow on the side. Var. *annulata* is brown above, yellowish below with narrow dark brown annuli.

Total length 455, diameter 15 mm.

Range S India. The Western Ghats from Castle Rock to Travancore, Shevaroy's. Beddome's specimen, said to have come from Ganjam district, is probably incorrectly labelled as regards locality.

The commonest species in the Travancore Hills

42 *Uropeltis arcticeps*.

Silybura arcticeps Günther, 1875, P Z S p 229, fig (Tinnevely Hills, London), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 268, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 157, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 358 — *Silybura nilgherriensis* var *arcticeps* Beddome, 1886, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, p 16

Silybura madurensis Beddome, 1878, P Z S p 802 (Cumbum Hills, Madura, London) and Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii 1886 p 16 Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 267, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus 1, 1893, p 156, Ferguson, J Bombay N H S x, 1895, p 70, Wall, ibid xxi, 1923, p 358

Silybura nilgherriensis var *picta* Beddome, 1886, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, p 16 (near Pirmede N Travancore, London)

Snout obtusely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above equal to or a little less than its distance from the frontal, eye one-half to one-fourth the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows V 127–128, 146–157, nearly twice as broad as the adjacent scales, C 8–10 Tail as in *macrolepis*

Black or dark purplish-brown above, uniform or the scales edged with yellowish, or the colours reversed, or yellowish spotted with black yellow (orange) below, with large black blotches or cross-bars, or almost entirely black or purplish-brown

Total length 370, diameter 11 mm

Range S India The Western Ghats south of Palghat, from sea-level (Alleppey) to about 5,000 feet in the Travancore Hills, Tinnevely Hills

Variety *arcticeps* is known from two specimens only, they are from the Tinnevely Hills and their ventral count is 127–128 The ventral count of 12 examples of *madurensis* from the Travancore Hills ranges from 146–157 Except for this difference I can find no character by which to separate them

43 *Uropeltis rubromaculatus*.

Silybura rubromaculata Beddome, 1867, Madras Quart J Med Sci xi, p 15, fig, and J Soc Bibl Nat Hist 1, 1940, p 316 (reprint) (Anamallays, London), and Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886 p 14, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 268, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 157, Wall, J Bombay N. H S xxix, 1923, p 358

Snout obtusely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above equal to its distance from the frontal, eye equal to or more than half the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows. V 127–136, one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 7–10 Tail as in *macrolepis*

Dark brown above the hinder part of each scale dull yellow or yellowish-brown, or the two colours in almost equal pro-

portions, the same below but the yellow colour predominating from 3 to 6 large blood-red spots on each side of the neck and fore part of the body and one on each side of the tail near the vent

Total length . 380, diameter 12 mm

Range S India Anaimalai and Nilgiri Hills, 4000-5000 feet

44 *Uropeltis rubrolineatus*.

Silybura rubrolineata Günther, 1875, P. Z S p 228 (Travancore Hills, London), Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 14, Boulenger, Fauna Brit Ind 1890, p. 266, and Cat. Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 155, Ferguson, J Bombay N H S x, 1895, p 70, Wall, ibid, xxix, 1923, p 358

Snout obtusely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above a little longer than its distance from the frontal, diameter of eye not half the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows; V 165-172, one and two-thirds times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 6-8 Tail as in *macrolepis*

Blackish-brown with a yellowish (bright red in life) stripe along each side of the body and tail occupying the greater part of scale-rows 1, 2, and 3, ventrals with irregular spots of the same colour

Total length 400, diameter 12 mm

Range India Western Ghats south of the Palghat Gap, Anaimalai and Travancore Hills

45 *Uropeltis phipsoni*.

Silybura ellisii (in part) Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 190, Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 20

Silybura phipsoni Mason, 1888, Ann Mag Nat. Hist (6) i, p 184 (Bombay Ghats, London), Boulenger, Fauna Brit Ind 1890, p 266, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 155, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 357

Snout obtusely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above distinctly longer than its distance from the frontal, eye half the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows, V 138-157, one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 7-12 Tail as in *macrolepis*

Brown or purplish-brown, uniform or with yellowish dots above, a more or less distinct yellow streak along each side of the neck and fore part of the body; a yellow stripe on each side of the tail connected with its fellow by a transverse bar across the anal region

Total length 280, diameter 9 mm

Range India The Western Ghats from the Bombay Hills to the Anaimalai Hills

46 *Uropeltis myhendræ*.

Silybura nilgherriensis var *myhendræ* Beddome, 1886, Ann Mag. Nat Hist (5) xvii, p 15 (Myhendra Mt, S Travancore, London)—*Silybura myhendræ*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 267, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 156, Ferguson, J Bombay N H S x, 1895, p 70; Wall, ibid xxix, 1923, p 358

In general scalation similar to *phipsoni* V 139-156; C. 6-8

Dark purplish-brown above, each scale with a crescentic yellowish posterior border, the yellow colour on the scales may increase in extent and form more or less distinct transverse cross-bars, at any rate on the anterior part of the body, lower parts yellowish, more or less thickly spotted or barred with brown or black, the dark coloration of the back may be continued round the body as annuli

Total length 540, diameter 17 mm

Range S India Western Ghats south of the Goa gap. Nilgiris, Travancore, 2,000-4,000 feet

47 *Uropeltis broughami*.

Silybura broughami Beddome, 1878, P. Z S p 800 (Sirumallays, Madura Dist., London), and Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xii, 1886, p 11, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 264, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 152, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 359, Roux, Rev Suisse Zool xxxv, 1928, p. 441

Silybura levingi Beddome, 1878, P Z S p 801 (Palni Hills, 4000 ft., London)

Snout acutely pointed, rostral much produced both anteriorly and posteriorly, ridged above, the part visible equal to the distance between it and the hinder end of the frontal, separating the nasals for more than half their length, eye not half the length of the ocular shield Scales in 19 rows, V 195-230 (181 Roux), one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 7-10 Tail as in *macrolepis*

Brown above with more or less distinct transverse series of small, yellow, black-edged ocelli, sides with large, irregular, yellow spots, ventrals dark brown

Total length 410, diameter 11 mm

Range The Palni and Sirumalai Hills, Madura district, Nilgiris

48 *Uropeltis maculatus*.

Silybura maculata Beddome, 1878, P Z S p 154 (Anamallays, London), and Ann Mag Nat. Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 22. Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 261, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 149, Ferguson, J Bombay N H S x, 1895, p 70, Wall, ibid xxix, 1923, p 356

Snout obtusely pointed; portion of rostral visible from

above equal to its distance from the frontal or a little longer, nasals in contact with one another, eye half the length of the ocular shield or a little less Scales in 17 rows, V 154-165, one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 8-13 Tail compressed, rounded above, slightly swollen; the terminal scales above smooth or feebly keeled, terminal scute with minute tubercles above, ending in a transverse ridge with two points

Dark brown or black above, black below, the ventrals and adjacent caudals with light margins, a series of orange (red in life) blotches along the side of the neck and fore part of the body and also along the hinder part of the body and tail

Total length 390, diameter 11 mm

Range S India Anaimalai and Travancore Hills, 6,000-7,000 feet

49 *Uropeltis petersi*.

Silybura petersi Beddome, 1878, P Z S p 154 (Anamallays, London), and Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 22, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 261, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus 1, 1893, p. 148, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 356

Snout obtusely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above shorter than its distance from the frontal, nasals in contact with one another, eye one-third the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows, V 151-180, one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales; C 6-11 Tail compressed, slightly swollen, rounded above, the terminal scales feebly or strongly multicarinate, terminal scute ending in a horizontal ridge

Brown with or without yellowish dots above, belly with small irregular yellow spots, no yellow band on the side of the tail

Total length 190, diameter 6 mm.

Range Anaimalai Hills, 4,000-5,000 feet

50 *Uropeltis liura*.

Silybura liura Gunther, 1875, P Z S p 228, pl xxxi, fig B (Madura Hills London), Beddome, Ann Mag Nat. Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 18, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 262, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 149, Wall, J Bombay N H S. xxix, 1923, p 356

Snout acutely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above as long as its distance from the frontal, nasals in contact with one another, eye not quite half the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows, V 174-188, one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 8-12 Tail slightly compressed, rounded above, terminal caudal scales multicarinate, terminal scute ending in a transverse ridge with two points

Purplish-brown above, each scale edged with darker, and with transverse series of small yellow, black-edged ocelli, sides and lower parts with large, alternating black and yellow spots or cross-bars

Total length . 320, diameter 9 mm

Range Madura and Tinnevely Hills, 3,000–5,000 feet

51 *Uropeltis pulneyensis*.

Plectrurus pulneyensis Beddome, 1863, P Z S p 228, col pl xxv, fig 2 (Palm Hills, London & Calcutta) — *Rhinophis pulneyensis*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 187, pl. xvii, fig C —, *Silybura pulneyensis*, Beddome, Ann. Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 23, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 260, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 147, Roux, Rev. Suisse Zool xxxv, 1928, p 441, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, pp 356, 392

Silybura guentheri Beddome, 1878, P Z S p 801, and Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 23

Snout acutely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above as long as the distance between it and the middle of the frontal, completely separating the nasals, eye one-half to one-third the length of the ocular shield. Scales in 17 rows, V. 161–180 (154 Roux), one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales, C. 6–13 Tail slightly compressed, rounded above, the terminal scales above feebly multicarinate, terminal scute ending in 2 points

Dark brown or blackish above, with or without minute specks, a yellow lateral stripe anteriorly, belly with large yellow spots, usually alternating, or cross-bars The type of *guentheri* has the lower parts entirely yellow

Total length : 380, diameter 12 mm

Range Palm and Travancore Hills, Madura district 5,000–7,000 feet

Beddome states (1886) that it is common in the Palm Hills, Madura district (5,000–7,000 feet), particularly on the higher ranges where it is very abundant, it is often found about the roads in wet weather, or dug up in gardens, it is also found under rocks

52 *Uropeltis grandis*.

Rhinophis grandis Beddome, 1867, Madras Quart J Med Sci xi, p 15, fig, and J Soc Biol Nat. Hist 1, 1940, p 316 (reprint) (Anamallays, London) — *Silybura grandis*, Günther, Ann. Mag Nat Hist (4) 1, 1868, p 3; Beddome, *ibid* (5) xvii, 1886, p 11, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 261, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus 1, 1893, p 148, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 359

Snout pointed, rostral sometimes separating the nasals, the portion visible above equal to the distance between it and the middle of the frontal, eye one third the length of the ocular

shield Scales in 19 rows, V 198-218, one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 6-12 Tail feebly compressed, rounded above, preanal and caudal scales multicarinate in the male, terminal scute ending in two points

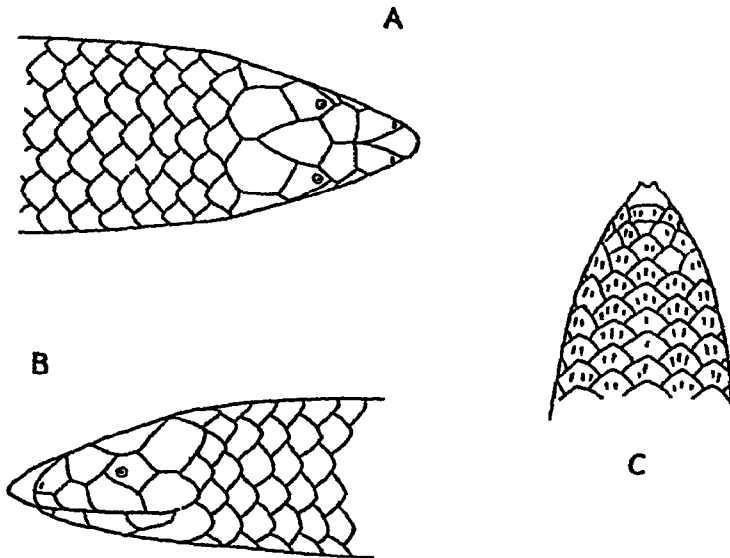


Fig 25 — *Uropeltis grandis*

A Dorsal, B Lateral view of head C Dorsal view of tail

Dark violet, belly with large alternating yellow spots or cross-bands

Total length 470 diameter 12 mm

Range Anaimalai Hills, 4,000-4,700 feet

53 *Uropeltis melanogaster*

Mytilia (Grcalia) melanogaster Gray, 1858, P Z S p 264, fig (Ceylon, London) — *Rhinophis melanogaster*, Peters, Serp Fam Uropelt 1864 p 18, pl II, fig 4 — *Silybura melanogaster*, Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 20, Boulenger, F B I 1890 p 260, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 146, Wall Sn Ceylon 1921, p 29, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 356

Snout acutely pointed, portion of rostral visible from above as long as the distance between it and beyond the middle of the frontal, completely separating the nasals, eye not half the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows V 141-166 not much broader than the adjacent shields C 6-10 Tail feebly compressed, rounded above, slightly swollen terminal scales above smooth or feebly keeled terminal scute higher than broad, spinose, ending in a horizontal ridge or with two points

Dark brown, with yellow spots confluent and forming an irregular lateral stripe, sometimes the belly is spotted with yellow

Juveniles are yellowish above, each scale with a large brown centre lower parts entirely yellow

Total length 250, diameter 8 mm

Range Ceylon Hills of the Central Province

54 *Uropeltis phillipsi*.

Silybura phillipsi Nicholls, 1929, Ceylon J Sci B, xv, p 153, and Ceylon J Sci D, ii, 1929, p 97 (Menakanda Group, E Matala Hills, Ceylon, London)

Snout acutely pointed, portion of rostral visible above as long as the distance between it and the hinder end of the frontal, completely separating the nasals, eye one-third the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows, V. 197-210, not much broader than the adjacent scales, C 6-9 Tail as in *melanogaster*

Dark bluish-grey, each scale of the 7 median dorsal rows with a yellow centre forming longitudinal lines down the back, a lateral series of yellow blotches or vertical bars

Total length 230, diameter 7 mm

Range Ceylon Known only from the type-locality and Mouskandy Hills Gammadura

Genus RHINOPHIS

Rhinophis Hemprich, 1820, Grundr Naturg p 119 (type *oxyrhynchus*) in J Wagler's, Nat Syst Amph 1830, p 195; Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 5, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 254, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 140

Dapatnaya Kelaart, 1853, Prodr Fauna Zeyl ii, p 16 (type *lanka-diana*)

Mytila Gray, 1858, P Z S p 57 (type *gerrardi*)

Morina Gray, 1858, P Z S on pp 260 and 264 appears to be a clerical error for *Mytila*

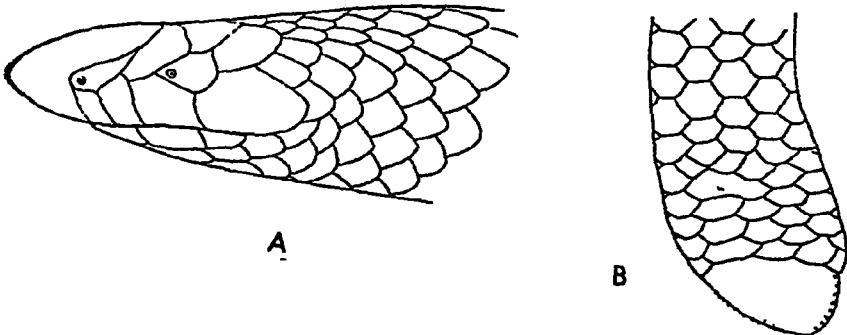


Fig 26 —*Rhinophis oxyrhynchus*
A Side view of head B Side view of tail

Eye in the ocular shield, no temporal, no mental groove
Tail cylindrical, terminating in a flattish or convex, round or oval, rugose shield

In all the species the snout is acutely pointed and compressed, the rostral shield extending forwards to well beyond the mouth, and backwards separating the nasal shields and partly the prefrontals

Key to the Species

- I Caudal disc shorter than the shielded part of the head, rostral separating the nasals, scales in 17 rows
Ventrals 148-168
Ventrals 173-191 *blythi*, p 88
drummondhayi, [p 89]
- II Caudal disc as long as or longer than the shielded part of the head rostral separating the nasals
A Rostral not more than half as long as the shielded part of the head, scales in 15-17 rows
a Disc convex [p 89]
Scales in 15 rows *sanguineus*,
Scales in 17 rows
V 180-204 Belly speckled with black and white, sides with large yellow spots *homolepis*, [p 90]
V 180 Belly white with large black spots no lateral spots *fergusonianus*, [p 90]
[p 91]
V 153-182 Uniform brown above and below *philippinus*.
b Disc flat [p 91]
Scales in 17 rows *triancoricus*,
B Rostral more than half as long as the shielded part of the head, scales in 17-19 rows
V 236-246 (281) A black vertebral line between two light ones *punctatus*, [p 92]
V. 211-227 Uniform brown above and below *oxyrhynchus*, [p 92]
V. 238 A broad orange vertebral stripe with large black blotches [See appendix *dorsimaculatus*

55 *Rhinophis blythi*.

Rhinophis blythi Kelaart, 1853, Prodr Faun Zeyl ii, p 14 (Ceylon), Peters, Serp Fam Uropelt 1861 p 17, Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886 p 8. Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 256, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 144, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 40, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 355 — *Rhinophis blythi* (in part), Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 186

Myhla templetoni Gray, 1858, P Z S p 263 (Ceylon, London)

Rostral not ridged above, not separating the prefrontals for more than half their length, the portion visible as long

as the distance between it and the hinder part of the frontal ; frontal as long as or longer than the parietals , eye less than half the length of the ocular shield. Scales in 17 rows V 148-168, a little broader than the adjacent scales , C 5-9

Caudal disc convex, one-half to three-fifths as long as the shielded part of the head, hardly visible from below, covered with minute tubercles or spicules , some of the caudal scales with faint keels

Dark brown, each scale below with a yellow spot or margin ; a series of yellow vertical spots on each side of the fore part of the body, usually connected by a lateral stripe which may extend the whole length of the body a yellow ring round the base of the tail

Total length 370, diameter 12 mm

Range Ceylon Hills of the Central, Uva and Southern Provinces

56 *Rhinophis drummondhayi*.

Rhinophis drummondhayi Wall, 1921, Sn Ceylon, p 43, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 356 (Uva Patnas, Ceylon : London)

In scalation similar to *R. blythi* V 173-191 , C 4-8

Brown above uniform or each scale dappled with whitish or with a light margin , below the same, but the white more extensive , a series of light spots or vertical bars along each side of the body present or absent , a more or less complete light ring round the base of the tail

Total length . 300, diameter 9 mm

Range Ceylon Hills of Central and Uva Provinces

57 *Rhinophis sanguineus*.

Rhinophis sanguineus Beddome, 1863, P Z S. p 227 (Cherambody, Malabar, London), Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 186, pl xvii, fig A, Beddome Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) 1886, xvii, p 8, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 256, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 143, Ferguson, J Bombay N H S x, 1890, p 70, Wall, ibid xxvi, 1919, p 557, and xxix, 1923, p 375, fig tail

Rhinophis microlepis Beddome, 1863, P Z S p 227, pl xxvi, fig 2 (Wynaad London)

Rostral not ridged above, not separating the prefrontals for half their length, the portion visible as long as the distance between it and the hinder part of the frontal , frontal as long as the parietals , eye one-third the length of the ocular shield Scales in 15 rows . V 182-218, one and a third times as broad as the adjacent scales ; C 5-10 Caudal disc convex, longer than the shielded part of the head, covered with spicules or

fine striæ, caudal scales smooth above, caudal and preanal scales below multicarinate in the male

Bluish-black above with or without small light spots, belly and outer 3-4 scale-rows bright red, more or less thickly spotted with black, tail red below, the middle part usually black

Total length 400 diameter 10 mm

Range Mysore (Koppa Kalsa), Winaad, Nilgiris, Travancore, Tinnevely

Wall states that it is common in the Nilgiris, the young are born in July, August and September (1919)

58 *Rhinophis homolepis*.

Rhinophis homolepis Hemprich, 1820, *Grund Naturg* p. 119, Peters, *Serp Fam Uropelt* 1861 p. 14, col. pl. II, fig. 2 (Ceylon)
Daptnaya trevelyana Kelaart, 1853, *Prodr. Faun. Zeyl.* II, p. 17 and *Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus.* I, 1893, p. 142, Wall, *Sn. Ceylon*, 1921, p. 38 and *J. Bombay N. H. S.* XXIX, 1923, p. 355 —
Rhinophis trechyanus, Beddome, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (5) XVII, 1856, p. 7, Boulenger, *F. B. I.* 1890 p. 256,
Mytilia gerrardi Gray, 1858, *P. Z. S.* pp. 58 & 262, pl. XII (Ceylon, London)

Rostral obtusely ridged above, not separating the prefrontals for more than half their length, the portion visible as long as the distance between it and the hinder end of the frontal or a little longer. Frontal as long as the parietals, eye one-third to one-fourth the length of the ocular shield. Scales in 17 rows. V 180-204, a little broader than the adjacent scales, C 3-5. Caudal disc convex, as long as or longer than the shielded part of the head, well visible from below, covered with spicules arranged in longitudinal series.

Blackish-brown each scale of the back with a fine margin of yellow, those on the belly with a broader one, a series of triangular yellow spots along each side of the body.

Total length 280, diameter 8 mm

Range Ceylon Hills of the Central, Uva and Sabaragamuwa Provinces

Hemprich's *homolepis* has been very clearly figured by Peters, and this name, which has priority, should be used

59 *Rhinophis fergusonianus*.

Rhinophis fergusonianus Boulenger, 1896, *J. Bombay N. H. S.* x, p. 236 (Cardamon Hills, Travancore, London), and *Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus.* III, 1896, p. 596, Ferguson, *J. Bombay N. H. S.* x 1870, p. 70, Wall, *ibid.* XXX, 1923, p. 354

Closely allied to *homolepis*, differing as follows —

Caudal disc considerably longer than the shielded part

of the head, scarcely visible from below, covered with fine striae V. 180

Black above, with some fine white dots, sides white, dotted and spotted with black; belly white with large black spots more or less confluent and forming a zig-zag, caudal disc black, edged all round with yellow

Total length 320, diameter 7 mm

Known only from the type-specimen.

60 *Rhinophis philippinus*.

Typhlops philippinus Cuvier, 1829, Règne Anim 2nd ed ii, p 74 ("Philippines") — *Rhinophis philippinus*, Müller, Zeitschr f Physiol iv 1832, p 248, Dum & Bibr Hist Nat Rept. 1854, vii, p 154, pl lx, fig 1, Peters, Serp Fam Uropelt 1861, p 15; Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 184

Rhinophis planiceps Peters, 1861, Serp Fam Uropelt p 17, pl i, fig 1, Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii 1886, p 6; Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 255, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 141, Wall Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 36, and J. Bombay N H S xix, 1923, p 355

Like *homolepis* but with fewer ventrals and a different coloration V 153-182 C 3-6

Uniform brown, each scale with a lighter margin, sometimes a yellowish blotch near the head or on the anal region

Total length 280, diameter 9 mm

Range Ceylon Hills in the Central and Sabaragamuwa Provinces

61 *Rhinophis travancoricus*.

Rhinophis travancoricus Boulenger, 1892, J Bombay N H S. vii p 318, pl, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 143 (Travancore; London), Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 355

Rostral not ridged above, separating the prefrontals for half their length, or a little more or less, the portion visible as long as the distance between it and the hinder part of the frontal, frontal as long as the parietals, eye one-third the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows, V 132-146, one and a half times as broad as the adjacent scales, C 5-7, caudal disc as long as the shielded part of the head, almost flat, covered with spicules

Dark purplish-brown, the scales on the sides and belly edged with whitish, on the throat and fore part of the belly almost completely whitish, anal region black, lower surface of tail yellow

Total length 180, diameter 7 mm

Range Travancore (Trivandrum, Pirmed, Ernakulam)

Found at sea level and in the hills to about 4,000 feet

62 *Rhinophis punctatus*.

Rhinophis punctatus Müller, 1832, Zetschr Physiol iv, p 248 (Ceylon), Peters, Serp Fam Uropelt 1861, p 12, col pl u, fig 3; Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xvii, 1886, p 6, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 255, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 141, Willey, Spol Zeyl i, 1903, p 88, fig, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921 p 33, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 355

Rhinophis porrectus Wall, 1921, Sn Ceylon, p 35, and J Bombay N. H S xxx, 1923, p. 355 (Maradankadawala, between Chilaw and Puttalam, N W Provinces, London)

Rostral strongly ridged above, separating the prefrontals for more than half their length, the portion visible more than half the length of the shielded part of the head, frontals shorter than the parietals, eye one-third to one-fifth the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 rows, V 236-246 (281), not or scarcely broader than the adjacent scales, C. 7-9, caudal disc convex, as long as the shielded part of the head, covered with minute spines or tubercles

Yellowish, each scale with a large central black spot, except the two series on either side of the vertebral line, sides and lower surface of tail yellow, except for a median black stripe

Total length 380, diameter 8 mm

Range Ceylon Hills in the Cential Province (Kandy, Peradeniya), N W Province

I am unable to find any character by which to separate Wall's *porrectus* from *punctatus* except that it has more ventral shields, viz 281 *Rh punctatus*, however, is known at present from only a few specimens, and more material will no doubt show that its variation is considerably greater than 236-246

63 *Rhinophis oxyrhynchus*.

Typhlops oxyrhynchus Schneider, 1801, Hist Amph ii, p 341 (Ceylon) -- *Rhinophis oxyrhynchus*, Hemprich, Grundr Naturg, 1820, p 119, Peters, Serp Fam Uropelt 1861, p 9, pl u, fig 1. Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 184, Beddome, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) 1886, p 5, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 255, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 141 Wall, Spol Zeylan 1921, p 397, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 32, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 356

Dapatnaya lankadivana Kelaart, 1853, Prodr Faun Zeyl ii, p 16
Mytilia unimaculata Gray, 1858, P Z S p 264, fig (Ceylon, London)

Rostral strongly ridged above, separating the prefrontals for more than half their length, the portion visible more than half the length of the shielded part of the head, frontal as long as the parietals, eye one-third to one-fourth the length of the ocular shield Scales in 17 or 19 rows, V 211-227, scarcely broader than the adjacent scales, C 5-7, tail as in *punctatus*

Uniform brown, each scale with a lighter margin, anal region yellow and sometimes a yellow spot below the tail; of stouter proportions than *punctatus*

Total length 400, diameter 10 mm

Range Ceylon (the low country in the Northern Province, Mullaitivu, Vavoniya)

Genus PSEUDOTYPHLOPS.

Pseudo-typlops (in part) Schlegel, 1839, Abbild. Amphib p 40 (type by elimination *philippinus*)

Uropeltis, Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 253, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 139, and other authors

Eye in the ocular shield, no temporal, no mental groove

Tail cylindrical, swollen at the end, obliquely truncate above, with a large, subcircular, spinose shield Scales in 19 rows

64 *Pseudotyphlops philippinus*.

Uropeltis philippinus Cuvier, 1829, Reg Anim 2nd ed ii, p 76 ("Philippines" Paris), Dum & Bibr Hist Nat Rept vii, 1854, p 161, pl lxx, fig 2, Peters, Serp Fam Uropelt 1861, p 20 — *Pseudo-typlops philippinus*, Schlegel, Abbild Amph. 1839, p 40.

Uropeltis grandis Kelaart, 1853, Prodr Fauna Zeyl ii, p 15, (Kerinday, near Matura, S Prov, Ceylon London), Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 188, Beddome, Ann Mag Nat. Hist. (5), xvii, 1886, p 9, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 254, and Cat. Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p. 139, Green, Spol Zeyl. 1906, p 220; Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 26, and J Bombay N H. S. xxix, 1923, p. 354

Uropeltis saffragamus Kelaart, 1853, Prodr Fauna Zeyl ii, p 15 (Ratnapoora, near Adam's Peak, Ceylon)

Uropeltis pardalis Kelaart, 1853, Prodr Faun Zeyl ii, p 16; Gray, P. Z S 1858, p 263 (Matura, Ceylon London.)

Rostral obtusely ridged above, separating the nasals for half or more than half their length, the portion visible as long

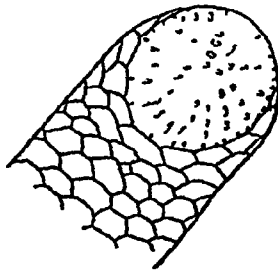


Fig 27 —Dorsal view of tail of *Pseudotyphlops philippinus*.

as the distance between it and the middle of the frontal or a little longer, frontal as long as or a little longer than the parietals; eye one-third the length of the ocular shield

V 129-147, scarcely broader than the adjacent scales, C 6-9 Tail obliquely truncate above, the truncated portion expanded and carrying a flat, subcircular shield, as long as or longer than the shielded part of the head, covered with coarse spines

Dark brown or blackish above, the young with yellow spots, yellow beneath, the young with dark brown spots

Total length. 285, diameter 22 mm The largest species of the family.

Range Ceylon at low elevations (Trincomalee, Matara, Kolonne, Korle, Badulla)

Family ANILIDÆ.

Ilysiidæ Boulenger, 1890, F B I p. 249, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 131.

Bones of the skull solidly united, prefrontal in contact with the nasal, supratemporal intercalated in the cranial wall; quadrate very short, vertically placed, dentary firmly attached to the articular, a coronoid bone, premaxillary teeth present or absent Vestiges of pelvis and hind limbs, terminating in a claw-like spur on each side of the vent Hypapophyses absent throughout the vertebral column

Range Three genera are known, two in the Oriental Region; the third, *Anilius*, in tropical S America

Genus CYLINDROPHIS.

PIPE SNAKES.

Cylindrophis Wagler, 1828, Icon Amphib p 5, and Syst Amphib 1830, p 195 (type *resplendens*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 249, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 134, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 16, Mahendra, Proc Ind Acad Sci iv, 1936, p 230, and v, 1937, p 109

Teeth robust, subequal, 9 to 12 in each maxilla, none in the premaxilla Head small, not distinct from neck, with large symmetrical shields, eye small, with rounded or vertically subelliptic pupil, nostril in the nasal shield which is in contact with its fellow behind the rostral, no loreal or preocular, a mental groove Body stout cylindrical, of almost equal diameter throughout, scales smooth, in 19 to 23 rows, ventrals feebly enlarged Tail very short

The hemipenis, owing to the extreme shortness of the tail, is difficult to examine satisfactorily In *C. rufus* it is short and thick and is furnished with a series of long convoluted folds through which the undivided sulcus winds (when seen in the organ at rest), there are no spines

Range. Ceylon, the Indo-Chinese region; the East Indies. Seven species are known, two inhabit the area covered by this work.

Key to the Species

Breadth of frontal equal to or greater than half the distance between the centres of the eyes, rostral narrow, as high as broad, back uniform dark brown, or with light cross-bars

rufus, p 96

Breadth of frontal not half the distance between the centres of the eyes, rostral broader than high, back with a black network enclosing large light spots

maculatus, p 98

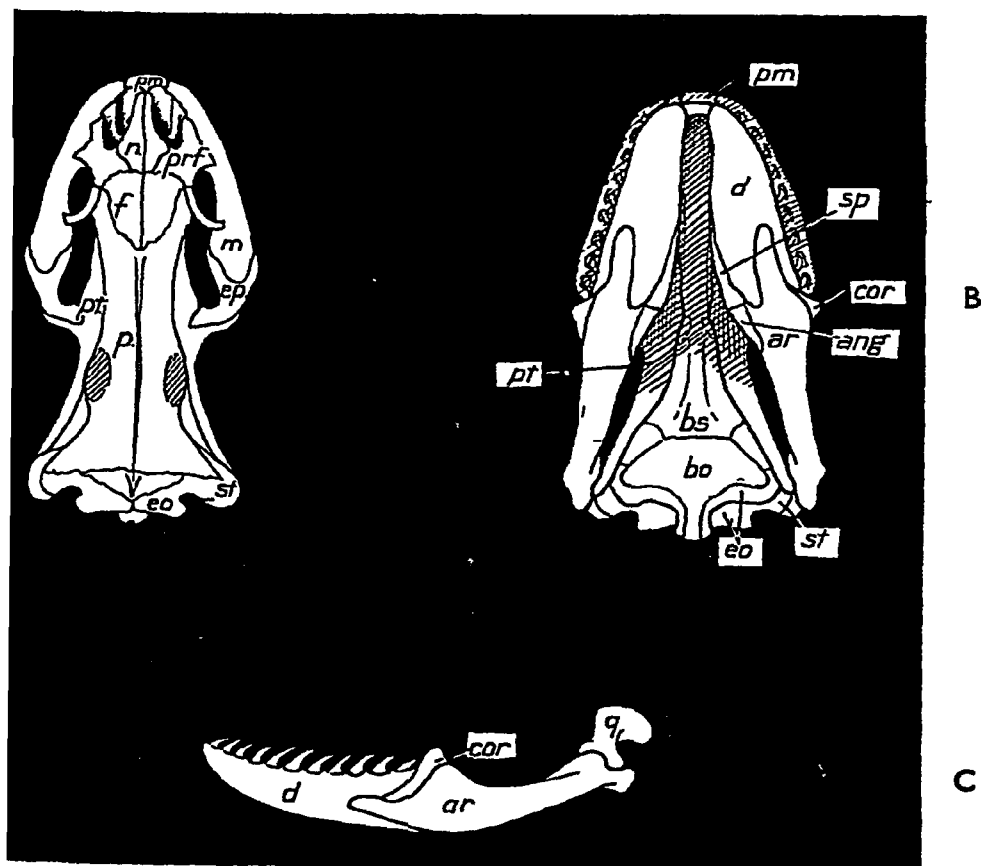


Fig 28.—Skull of *Cylindrophis rufus*. A Dorsal view. The quadrate and mandible have been removed. B Ventral view. C Left mandible, outer view.

ang, angular; *ar*, articular; *bo*, basioccipital; *bs*, basisphenoid; *cor*, coronoid; *d*, dentary; *eo*, exoccipital; *ep*, ectopterygoid (or transpalatine); *f*, frontal; *m*, maxilla; *n*, nasal; *p*, parietal; *pm*, premaxilla; *prf*, prefrontal; *pt*, pterygoid; *q*, quadrate; *sp*, splenial; *st*, supratermporal.

65 *Cylindrophis rufus*.

THE RED-TAILED PIPE SNAKE

- Anguis ruffa* Laurenti, 1768, Syn Rept p 71 ("Surinam") —
Tortrix rufa, Schlegel Phys Serp 1837, ii, p 9, figs 1-3, and
 Abbild Amphib 1844, p 111, col pl xxxiii, figs 11-17 (Java) —
Cylindrophis rufa, Gray, Zool Misc 1842, p 46 — *Cylindrophis*
rufus, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 250, fig. and Cat Sn. Brit
 Mus 1, 1893 p 135 Flower, P Z S 1899, col. pl xxxvii,
 Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 354, Smith, J Nat
 Hist Soc Siam 1, 1914, p 10, Schmidt, Copeia, 1928, p 80,
 Haas, Zool Jahrb Jena (Anat), lv, 1931, (3), p 411, fig skull,
 Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 24, Radovanovic, Zeitschr
 Naturw Jena, lxxi, 1937, p 200 (fig skull)
Anguis scytale (non Linn) Russell, 1801, Ind Serp. ii, pp 31 & 32,
 pls. xxvii and xxviii (Java: "Tranquebar")
Cylindrophis resplendens Wagler, 1828, Icon Amphib p 5, col.
 pl v, fig 1 (Java)

Laurenti's description "Corpore æquali, ruffo, lineis transversalibus albis interruptis, abdomine vario" does not bear much resemblance to the snake under discussion, and he may have meant something quite different. Schlegel appears to have been the first author to describe it properly, and his coloured figure leaves one in no doubt as to what species he meant.

Head depressed, snout broadly rounded, rostral about as broad as high, breadth of the frontal equal to or greater than half the distance between the centres of the eyes (less than half in two examples from Burma), supraocular about as large as the frontal, larger than the parietals, six supralabials, 3rd and 4th largest and touching the eye, three infralabials in contact with the anterior genials, posterior genials small or absent. Ventrals scarcely broader than the adjacent scales; anal divided.

Two races can be distinguished.

I. *Cylindrophis rufus rufus*.

19 or 21 scales round the body (21 for specimens from the Indo-Chinese Region), V 186-216, C 5-7.

Dark brown or black above, highly iridescent, with or without narrow light cross-bars, usually alternating with one another and extending only to the middle of the back, dark brown or black below, with broader, white (reddish or orange in life) cross-bars which are complete or alternate with one another on the mid-line. Tail below red or orange, except the extreme tip.

Total length 865, tail 15 mm.

Range - Siam and French Indo-China, S. of lat 17° N, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago.

II *Cylindrophis rufus burmanus*, subsp nov

19 scales round the body. V 201-225, C 5-7.

Colour as in *rufus rufus* but the belly more heavily marked with dark brown and the cross-bars less evident, sometimes almost entirely dark brown.

Size much smaller.

Total length 330, tail 10 mm.

Range. Tenasserim and Burma as far North as Myitkyina.

Cylindrophis rufus is a fairly common snake in the great central plain of Siam, living in the rice fields or in gardens

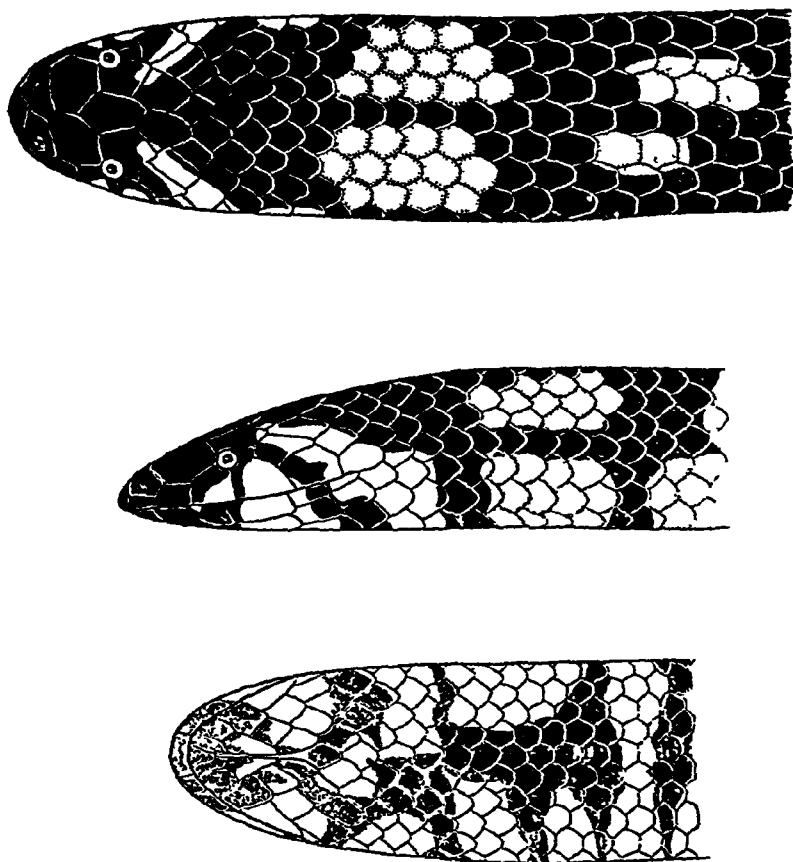


Fig 29—*Cylindrophis maculatus* (B M 1905 3 25 76-81)

in the vicinity of houses. In soft earth it can burrow easily and when not in search of food lives in the ground. It takes readily to water. Its food consists of other snakes and eels and the manner in which it can dispose of a meal even longer

than itself is astonishing. I have never known one to bite when handled, but when alarmed it flattens the whole body and curls the tail up over its back showing the reddish under surface Schmidt (1928) records a specimen taken in a salt-water lagoon near Hué, Annam.

66 *Cylindrophis maculatus*.

CEYLON PIPE SNAKE.

Anguis maculata Linn 1754, Mus Ad. Frid p 21, pl xxxi, fig 3 ("America"), and Syst Nat 1, 10th edit 1758, p 228, Russell, Ind Serp 11, 1801, p 32, pl xxxix ("Tranquebar"), Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 251, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 136, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxvi, 1919, p. 863, and xxix, 1923, p 354, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 18

Eye smaller than in *rufus*, frontal narrower, its breadth less than half the distance between the centres of the eyes, usually smaller than the supraoculars, rostral broader Scales in 19 or 21 rows, V. 185-212, C 4-6

Above with a black net-work enclosing two series of large reddish-brown spots, lower parts white, variegated with black or barred with black and white

Total length: 600, tail 18 mm.

Range Ceylon Found in the plains and in the hills at low altitude A common snake.

Two or three young are produced at a time They are unusually large, measuring from 127 to 137 mm in length when born Wall states that it is a very placid snake making no attempt to escape when captured It lives beneath the soil

Family XENOPELTIDÆ.

Xenopeltidae Cope, 1864, Proc Acad Philad p 230, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 276, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 167

Bones of the skull united, premaxilla toothed, in contact with the maxilla, ectopterygoid loosely attached to the maxilla, prefrontal in contact with the nasal, no postfrontal, supra-temporal intercalated in the cranial wall, extending posteriorly beyond it, suspending the quadrate which is very short and vertically placed; dentary attached to the articular anteriorly, entirely free behind, no coronoid bone Hypapophyses absent in the posterior part of the vertebral column

A single genus

Xenopeltis has several unique characters In addition to the occipital shield and loss of the postfrontal bone, the auditory bones are different from those of any other snake that I

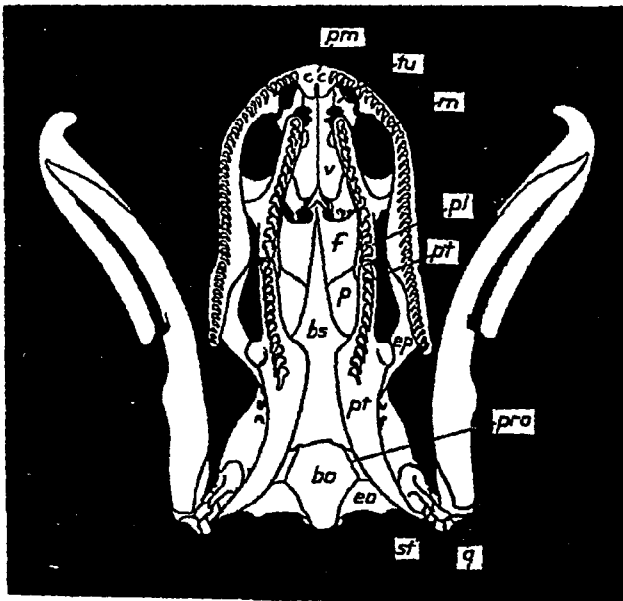


Fig 30—Skull of *Xenopeltis unicolor*. A. Dorsal, B. Ventral view.

ang, angular, ar, articular; bo, basioccipital, bp, basisphenoid; ca, columella auris, d, dentary, eo, exoccipital, ep, ectopterygoid (or transpalatine), f, frontal, fp, foot-plate,

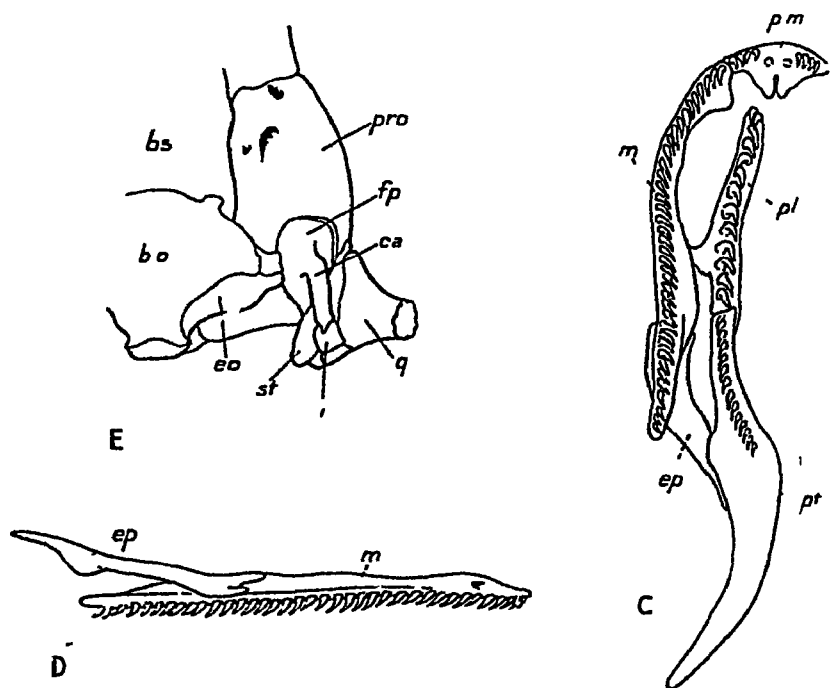


Fig 30 (cont) —C Maxilla and palatomaxillary arch D. Maxillary-ectopterygoid articulation E Ear-bones

i, intercalary bone, *m*, maxilla, *n*, nasal, *p*, parietal, *pm*, premaxilla, *prf*, prefrontal, *pro*, prootic, *q*, quadrate, *so*, supra occipital, *st*, supratemporal, *v*, vomer

know, except *Cylindrophis rufus*, in which the condition is much the same. The fenestra ovalis, and foot-plate which fits into it, are unusually large, and the columella auris is short and stout. Its attachment to the quadrate is through another small rod of bone, of about the same size, which is intercalated between them (fig E).

Genus XENOPELTIS.

Xenopeltis Reinwardt in Boie, 1827, Isis, p. 564 (type *unicolor*). Boulenger, F B I 1890, p. 276, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p. 167, Radovanovic, Zeitschr Naturw Jena, lxxi, 1937, p. 204 (skull)

Teeth small, equal, closely set and strongly curved, with edged crowns directed outwards, 4 or 5 on each side in the premaxilla, 35 to 45 in each maxilla. Eye small, with vertically elliptic pupil. Head not distinct from neck, covered with large shields, including a large occipital in contact with the frontal, and a large preocular, no loreal. A mental groove. Body cylindrical, scales smooth, in 15 rows throughout, ventrals well developed, tail short, subcaudals paired

67 *Xenopeltis unicolor*.

SUNBEAM SNAKE

- Xenopeltis unicolor* Reinwardt in Boie, 1827, Isis, p 564 (Java),
 Theobald, Cat Rept Mus Asiat Soc Bengal, 1868, p. 64,
 Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 276, fig., and Cat Sn Brit Mus. 1,
 1893, p 168, Flower, P Z S 1899, p 657, Wall, J Bombay
 N H S xix 1909, p 292, col pl, and xxix, 1923, p 361, and
 xxx, 1925, p 806, Thompson, P Z S 1913, p 415, Smith,
 J Nat Hist Soc Siam, 1 1914, p 12, Pope, Rept China, 1935,
 p 77, pl 1. Bouiret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 27, fig., Mahen-
 dra, Curr Sci Bangalore, vi, 1938 p 559, fig
Xenopeltis concolor Reinwardt, in Boie, 1827, Isis p 564 (Java)
Xenopeltis leucocephala Reinwardt, l c s p 564 (Java)
Tortrix xenopeltis Schlegel, 1837, Phys Serp n, p 20, pl 1, figs 8-10,
 and Abbild 1844 pl xxxv (subst name)

Head much depressed, snout rounded, nostril between
 two small nasals Rostral broader than high, well visible
 from above internasals much smaller than the prefrontals,

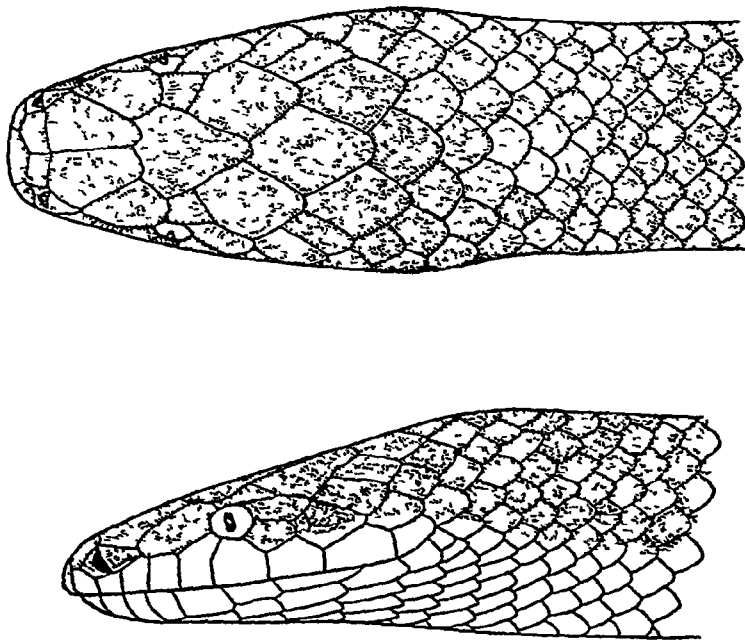


Fig 31 — *Xenopeltis unicolor* (B M 1923 5 25 6-7)

frontal large, supraoculars very small interparietal about
 as large as the parietals usually a pair of enlarged shields
 vis-a-vis the latter behind the interparietal, a large preocular
 extending well on to the upper surface of the head 2 large
 postoculars indistinguishable in shape from the temporal
 shields 8 supralabials first in contact with the internasal

in front of the nasal, 4th and 5th touching the eye, a pair of small genials, in contact with the first 3 infralabials. Scales quite smooth, highly polished. V 173-196, for specimens from the Indo-Chinese region, C 24-31.

The hemipenis is forked near the tip, but the sulcus bifurcates about half way down. It is longitudinally pleated throughout and in addition there are 4 or 5 transverse flounces. The distal half of the organ has some calyculate areas. There are no spines.

Black to chocolate-brown above, highly iridescent, the outer scale-rows edged with white, ventrals and outermost row of scales white, uniform or edged with brown. Under part of head and neck white in the young.

Total length - 1050 tail 95, ♂ 850, tail 70 mm.

Range Burma as far north as Myitkina, Siam, French Indo-China, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago. Mell records a specimen from Kwangtung Province, southern China, and Theobald one from the Andamans.

The Iridescent Earth Snake or Sunbeam Snake, so called on account of the highly polished and iridescent nature of its scales, is common in southern Burma and Tenasserim, Siam and southern French Indo-China. It inhabits chiefly the rice-fields, and gardens in the vicinity of human habitations, living in the earth or hiding beneath logs or stones. In soft earth it can bury itself rapidly, and those that I have kept in captivity spent their days hidden in this manner, issuing forth only at night. I never knew one attempt to bite when handled, but when excited it could vibrate its short tail with extraordinary speed, so rapidly that at times I have believed I could hear the movement. Its food consists of other snakes, small rodents, and frogs, birds have also been recorded in its diet.

Family BOIDÆ.

Boidæ (in part) Gray, 1842, Zool Misc p 41, Boulenger, F. B. I 1890, p 234, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 71, Beddard, P. Z. S. (2), 1904, p 107, and Ann Mag Nat Hist xii, 1904, p. 233 (angiology), Gadow, Amphib & Rept 1909, p 596, figs., Stull, Proc Boston Soc Nat Hist xl, 1935, p 387, Ros, Jena Z Naturw lxx 1935, p 1, Noble & Schmidt, Pr Amer Phil Soc Philad lxxvii 1937, p 637.

Palato-maxillary arch movable, premaxillary teeth present or absent, pterygoid extending to the quadrate, prefrontal in contact with the nasal, supratemporal attached scale-like to the cranium, supporting the quadrate, which is vertically placed, dentary firmly attached to the articular, a coronoid bone. Vestiges of pelvis and hind limbs, terminating in a claw-like spur, usually visible on each side of the vent, they are longer in the male than in the female.

Range The tropical regions of the world.

The family has been divided into two subfamilies, the Boinæ and the Pythoninæ, on the presence or absence of a supraorbital bone. This character may serve as a useful means of recognition, but it is doubtful if it expresses phylogeny. The loss of the supraorbital bone has occurred, no doubt, independently in different genera, and its absence does not necessarily express relationship. *Constrictor* (Boinæ) for instance is in many ways more closely related to *Python* (Pythoninæ) than it is to *Eryx* (Boinæ).

Two genera are represented in the Oriental Region. They are easily distinguished from one another by the characters given on p. 105.

The Pythons and Boas are the largest representatives of the serpent family now living. Fossil remains show that at one time there were much larger forms. *Gigantophis* from the Eocene of Egypt is estimated to have reached 50 feet in length. Such dimensions are not attained by any species existing to-day. Authentic records, taken from individuals that have been measured after death, and not from dried and stretched skins, show that they do not exceed 28 or 30 feet or a little more. The rate of growth of *P. molurus* and *P. reticulatus* in the first three or four years of life has been recorded, and in spite of the size which these species attain, it does not differ greatly from the rate which governs the growth in many other snakes. Sexual maturity is reached in $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 years, and average length, that is 12 feet for *P. molurus* and 18 or 20 feet for *P. reticulatus*, in 5 or 6 years. Both species, however, are known to grow considerably larger, and it may be that the Boidæ differ from other snakes in continuing to grow throughout life. The very large individuals which were recorded 30, 40 and 50 years ago, are seldom met with to-day. The spread of population into districts previously untouched, makes it increasingly difficult for any snake of really large proportions to conceal itself safely.

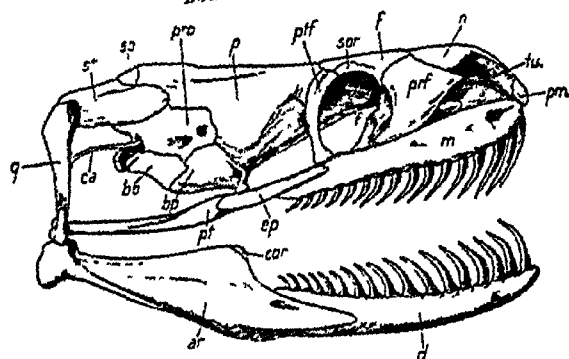
The weight of a large Python is considerable. Wall records a *P. molurus* of 19 feet in length that weighed 200 lb., and a *P. reticulatus* of 28 feet, that scaled 250 lb.

The Pythons are oviparous and guard their eggs by coiling themselves around them during the incubation period. Observations on "brooding" mothers to ascertain if the temperature of the body is raised during this period, are conflicting. A very careful series of observations recorded by Benedict (1932), appears to show that the body temperature is raised between 2 and 4 degrees Centigrade during that time.

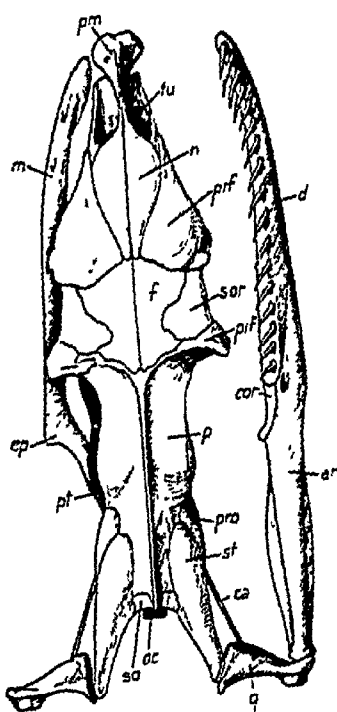
The vestigial hind limbs are used by the male during courtship to stimulate the female by scratching her on the body above the cloaca.

The Boidæ kill their prey by constriction. No bones are broken in the process, death being caused by asphyxiation.

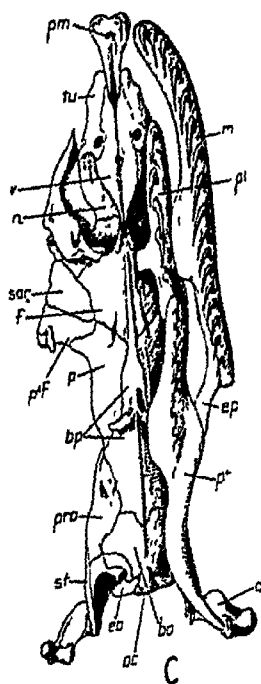
BODÆ



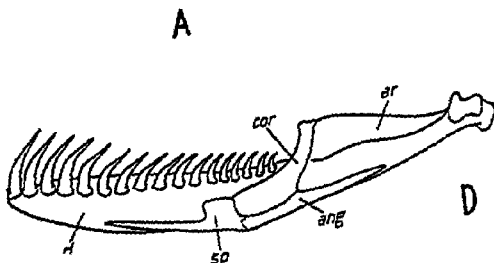
B



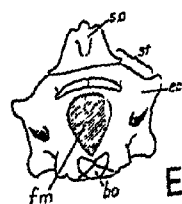
A



C



D



E

The habit of constriction, however, is not confined to this family. It is shared by some of the Colubridæ, particularly the larger species of *Elaphe*, *Ptyas*, *Zaocys* and some species of *Boraga*.

The structure and function of the labial pits have been recently studied by Ros (1935) and Noble and A. Schmidt (1937). These cavities are richly supplied with blood-vessels and nerves, and experimental observations indicate that they act as accessory sense organs. In many respects they are analogous to the facial pits of the Crotalidæ.

Key to the Genera

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| A supraorbital bone, teeth on the premaxilla, head with large shields, labials pitted | <i>Python</i> , p 105 |
| No supraorbital bone, no premaxillary teeth, head covered with small shields, labials not pitted | <i>Eryx</i> , p 111 |

Genus PYTHON.

PYTHON

- Python* Daudin, 1803, Mag. Encycl. An. 8, March, p. 434, and Hist. Nat. Rept. v, 1803, p. 226 (type *molurus*), Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890 p. 245, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 80.
 Stull, Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. xl, 1935, p. 393.
Aspidoboa Sauvage, 1884, Bull. Soc. Phil. Paris, (7), viii, p. 143 (type *curta*).

Anterior maxillary and mandibular teeth very long. Head distinct from neck with large symmetrical shields, rostral, anterior supralabials and anterior and posterior infralabials pitted. Eye with vertical pupil. Scales smooth, in 60-75 rows. Ventrals rather narrow, subcaudals generally paired. Hypapophyses absent in the posterior part of the vertebral column.

The hemipenis of *P. molurus* and of *P. reticulatus* is as follows.—It is forked for about half its length, the lips of the sulcus being very prominent throughout the whole length there are longitudinal folds, and just proximal to the point of bifurcation of the sulcus there is a fleshy, tongue-shaped papilla. There are no spines.

Fig. 32.—Skull of *Python reticulatus*. A Dorsal, B Lateral and C Ventral view. The right palato-maxillary arch has been removed. D Inner view of right mandible. E Occipital region.
 ang, angular, ar, articular, bo, basioccipital, bp, basisphenoid; ca, columella auris, cor, coronoid, d, dentary, eo, exoccipital, ep, ectopterygoid (or transpalatine), f, frontal, fm, foramen magnum, m, maxilla, n, nasal, oc, occipital condyle, p, parietal, pl, palatine, pm, premaxilla, pif, prefrontal, pro, prootic, pt, pterygoid, ptf, postfrontal, q, quadrate, so, supraoccipital, sor, supraorbital, sp, splenial, st, supratemporal, tu, turbinal (or septomaxilla), v, vomer.

Range. Africa; the Oriental Region and East Indian Islands, 7 species are known; two inhabit the area covered by this work.

Key to the Species

Rostral and first two supralabials pitted, V. 245-270; C 58-73	<i>molurus</i> , p 106
Rostral and first four supralabials pitted, V 297- 332; C 75-102	[p 109 <i>reticulatus</i> ,

68 *Python molurus*.

INDIAN PYTHON, ROCK PYTHON

Russell, 1796, Ind Serp 1, pp 27 to 30, pls xxii to xxiv ("Pedda Poda", Ganjam and Vizagapatam), and p 44, pl 39 ("Bora", Calcutta)

Coluber molurus Linn 1758, Syst Nat. 10th ed p 225 (India). Andersson, Bih Sv Vet Akad Stockholm, xxiv, 4, 6, 1899, p 35 — *Python molurus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 246, and Cat Sn Brit Mus. 1, 1893, p. 87, de Rooij, Rept Indo-Austral. Arch 1917, ii, p 22, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxi, 1912, p 447, col pl, and xxix, 1923, p 352, and xxxi, 1926, p 559, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 48, fig, Leigh, J Bombay N H S. xxxiii, 1928, p 208, and Field, 1936, Feb p 404, and Dec. p 1556, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 18, Fraser, J Bombay N H S xxxix, 1937, p 465

Python cinerea Schneider, 1801, Hist Amphib ii, p 270 (based on Russell's Pedda Poda)

Python castanea Schneider, l c s p 273 (based on Russell's Pedda Poda)

Python albicans Schneider, l c s p 274 (based on Russell's Pedda Poda)

Python orbiculata Schneider, l c s p 276 (based on Russell's Bora)

Coluber boeiformis Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool iii, p 511 (based on Russell's Pedda Poda and Bora)

Python bora Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept v, p 236 (based on Russell's Bora)

Python tigris Daudin, l c s p 241, pl lxxv (based on Russell's Pedda Poda)

Python bivittatus Schlegel (in part), 1837, Phys Serp iii, p 403, pl xv, figs 1-4, Werner, Zool. Jahrb Syst xxviii, 1909, p 271, 273, fig A — *Python molurus bivittatus*, Mertens, Abh Senckenb. Nat Ges xlii, 1930, p 287, p viii (type loc fixed as Java), Pope, Rept. China, 1935, p 72, pl v, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 19, fig

Python molurus var *ocellata* Werner, 1899, Zool Garten, xl, p 24, and Zool Jahrb Syst xxviii, 1909, p 273 (India Ceylon), Prater, J Bombay N H S xxx (1), 1924, p 166

Nostril at the posterior and upper part of a large anterior nasal, rostral with a deep pit on either side, internasals distinct, two pairs of prefrontals, the posterior pair smaller and often broken up, frontal a little larger than the supraoculars, often divided longitudinally, parietal, loreal and temporal regions covered with irregular scales, 2 pre- and 3 or 4 postoculars, 11 to 13 supralabials, the first 2 deeply pitted, 6th or 7th touching the eye or separated by suboculars, 16 to 18 infralabials, the anterior ones long and narrow,

3 or 4 of the anterior and the same of the posterior feebly pitted, a well-defined mental groove no proper genials Scales in 60 to 75 rows, all quite smooth, V 245-270, distinctly narrower than the breadth of the body anal entire, C 58 to 73 paired Tail rather short

Light yellowish to cream, greyish or brownish above, with a dorsal series of large, elongate, more or less subquadrangular dark grey, brown or reddish-brown, black-edged spots, these are usually more irregular in shape on the hinder part of the body, flanks with smaller rounded or irregularly-shaped

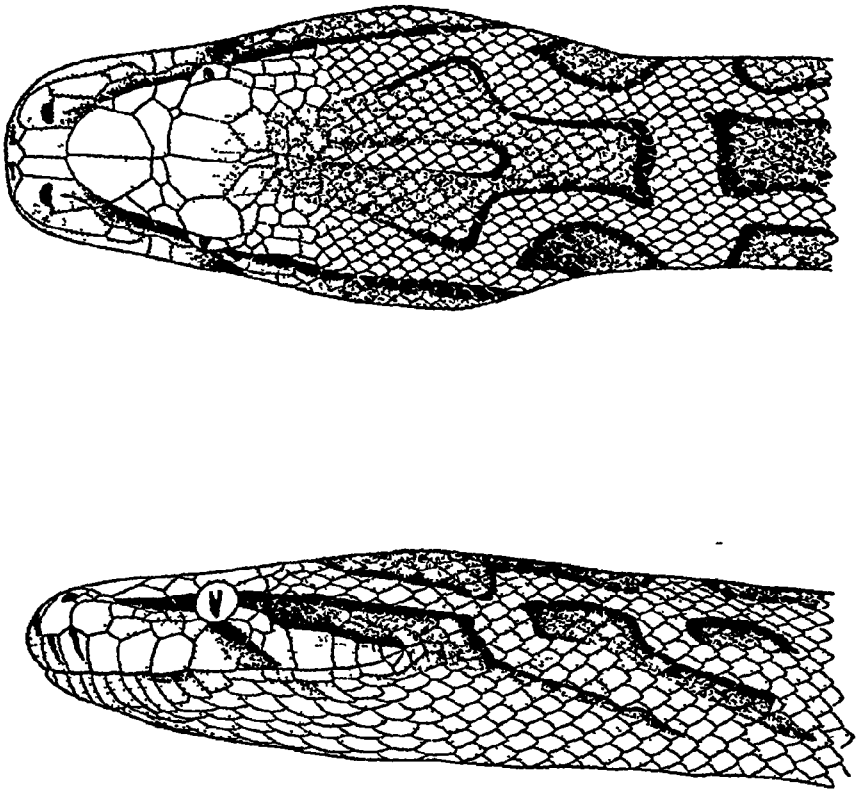


Fig 33 — *Python molurus*

spots of the same colour, a lance-shaped mark on the top of the head extending on to the nape, a dark streak on the side of the head, broadening behind the eye and extending past the angle of the mouth, a dark subocular streak, below yellowish, with a border of dark spots on the outermost row of the scales, tail below marbled with yellow and black

No words can adequately describe the wonderful sheen on the scales of the Python in life, particularly when the skin has just been shed

Total length—Specimens that exceed 4 metres (about 12 feet) in length are rare, and there does not appear to be any authentic record of individuals more than $6\frac{1}{2}$ metres (about 20 feet) in length. In girth *P. molurus* is considerably greater than *P. reticulatus* of the same length

Two races have been distinguished —

Python molurus molurus

6th or 7th labial touching the eye, lance-shaped mark on the top of the head, usually distinct only posteriorly. V 253-270

Range. Ceylon and Peninsular India to the extreme limit of Sind and the Punjab in the North-West, and to Bengal in the North-East

Python molurus bivittatus

Labials separated from the eye by suboculars lance-shaped mark on the head distinct throughout, V 245 to 270

Range The whole of the Indo-Chinese subregion; Southern China, Hong Kong, Hainan

In Southern Indo-China it is rare. It has been recorded in Burma from as far south as Zimba Chaung, Tavoy district, I obtained three specimens in Siam, at Raheng, Lopburi and Sriracha. In French Indo-China it is recorded from Nha-trang, near Saigon. There are no authentic records of its occurrence in Peninsular Siam or the Malay Peninsula, but it has been found in Java, there is a specimen in Raffles Museum said to have come from Pontianak, Borneo, and it is recorded from Celebes.

Wall has given good accounts of the Indian Python (1912 and 1921) and his coloured plate (1912) is excellent. The following remarks are taken mainly from his article. It is an inhabitant of the jungle but where this is not available is to be found near rivers and wheels. It climbs well, and by means of its prehensile tail is capable of suspending itself from branches, there to wait until food comes within its reach. In water it is quite at home and might be considered semi-aquatic in habit. Observations made in captivity have shown that it can remain submerged for half-an-hour. In northern India, during the cold season, it hibernates for some months, retiring into a hollow tree, or hole in a bank, or in the hills into some convenient cave. It is one of the most lethargic snakes and in its natural haunts exhibits little timidity, rarely rousing itself seriously to escape. Its movements are laboured and slow, in fact its mode of progression cannot be called anything but a crawl. This is in marked contrast to the more slenderly built *reticulatus* that in jungle and upon trees can move with considerable speed.

The Indian Python is practically omnivorous, feeding on mammals, birds and reptiles indiscriminately. It seems to prefer mammals of relatively large proportions. Its strength is enormous. An individual 18 feet long has been known to overcome and devour a leopard measuring 4 feet 2 inches from nose to rump. Authentic records of its attacking human beings are rare. Wall records a case of a Chinese baby being devoured on an island near Hong Kong.

It is one of the few snakes that is eaten by man. Those who have tasted the flesh say that it is good. Aesthetic reasons no doubt prevent it from becoming a regular article of diet with all, but by many of the less fastidious peoples of India and Indo-China it is eaten frequently.

The Indian Python, like all the Pythons, is oviparous. After depositing her eggs, the mother coils herself round them and remains with them until they hatch out. The number of eggs laid varies enormously, as many as 107 have been recorded.

Mating, in northern India, takes place during hibernation. The eggs vary slightly in size, some laid in the Berlin Aquarium averaged 120×60 mm. Hatchlings measure on an average 2 ft 5 inches in length. The rate of growth in nature is not known, and the records of growth in captivity vary so greatly that they are obviously influenced by the conditions under which the snakes live.

69 *Python reticulatus*.

RETICULATED PYTHON

- Boa reticulata* Schneider, 1801, Hist Amph ii, p 264 (based on Seba, i, pl lxxi, fig 2, and ii, pl lxxix, fig 1; no type loc given) — *Python reticulatus*, Boulenger, F. B. I 1890, p 246, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 85, Werner, Arch Nat Berlin, lxxxvii, 1921, p 236, Wall, J Bombay N. H. S. xxix, 1923, p 353, and xxxi, 1926, p 84, Kopstein, Trop Natuur, 1927, p 65, M. A. Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, i, 1914, p 9, and xi, 1937, p 61; Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 16, fig 1.
Boa rhombeata Schneider, 1801, Hist Amph ii, p 266 (based on Seba, ii, pl lxxx, fig 1).
Boa phrygia Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool iii, p 348, pl xcvi (based on Seba, i, pl lxxi, fig 2).
Coluber javanicus Shaw, l c. s., p 441 (Java).

Like *mohurus* in head scalation, differing as follows — 4 anterior supralabials deeply pitted, 2 or 3 anterior and 5 or 6 posterior infralabials feebly pitted, 6th or 7th supralabial touching the eye, no suboculars. Scales in 70 to 80 rows. V 297–332, C 75–102, mostly divided. Anal entire.

Light brown or yellowish above with a dorsal series of large darker brown, circular, oval or rhomboidal spots, often confluent with one another. Each spot is edged with black.

and outside again with yellow, these two colours descending upon the flanks in a regular series of vertical bars or V-shaped marks, each one of which encloses a white spot, whitish or yellowish below, the outer scale rows spotted or dappled with brown. A black streak along the middle of the head and another on each side from the eye to the angle of the jaw.

Total length.—The Reticulated Python is the largest snake living to-day, the South American Anaconda running it closely for second place. Authentic measurements of specimens that have been killed show that it reaches a length of 27 or 28 feet. Greater lengths have been recorded, but they cannot be relied upon.

Range.—Tenasserim, southern Burma and Siam as far north as lat 18°, French Indo-China as far north as Yen-Bai in Tong-King, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago, the Nicobar Islands.

In Indo-China, in the regions in which it occurs, the Reticulated Python is not uncommon. Wall states (1926), "In Burma this Python is only met with in the densest jungles, places unknown to Europeans with the exception of a few forest officers." This is strange, for in Siam its habits are the reverse and it is a frequent visitor to human habitations. Flower, who lived in Bangkok in 1897 and 1898, writes that "it was very numerous in the city and suburbs, and in almost every compound has been found in the last few years. It seems to prefer the busiest spots along the river, where boats are loading and unloading and hundreds of coolies pass to and fro. At night it makes an easy living devouring fowls, ducks, cats and dogs." When I went to live there a few years later it was quite as common, and for many years after, until the city became much larger and more crowded, I could usually catch two or three every year in my compound, which was within 100 yards of the main thoroughfare. Like the Indian Python the Reticulated Python is a great lover of water and is seldom found far from it.

All the available records show that it seems to prefer comparatively small mammals as food rather than very large ones. Mr Owen, however, shot one in Singapore in the act of devouring a full-sized boar. Kopstein (1927) relates that in the Dutch East Indies a boy of 14 years of age was swallowed by one.

As with most other snakes the number of eggs laid varies with the size of the mother. A full grown female has been known to lay 100 eggs, on the other hand, a 10 foot female killed in Bangkok contained only 13 eggs. The incubation period ranges from 60 to 80 days and the young when born measure from 600 to 750 mm. in length.

Genus **ERYX**.

SAND BOAS

Eryx Daudin, 1803, Mag Encycl An 8, v, March, p 437, and Hist Nat Rept vii, 1803, p 251 (type *turcicus*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 247, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 122, Stull, Proc Boston, Soc. Nat Hist. xl, 1935, p 406

Clothonia Daudin, l c s p 283 (type *Boa anguiformis*)

Gongylophis Wagler, 1830, Syst Amphib p 192 (type *Boa conica*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 246

Cureoria Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit. Mus p 107 (type *elegans*)

Anterior maxillary and mandibular teeth very long Head not distinct from neck, covered with small scales except on the

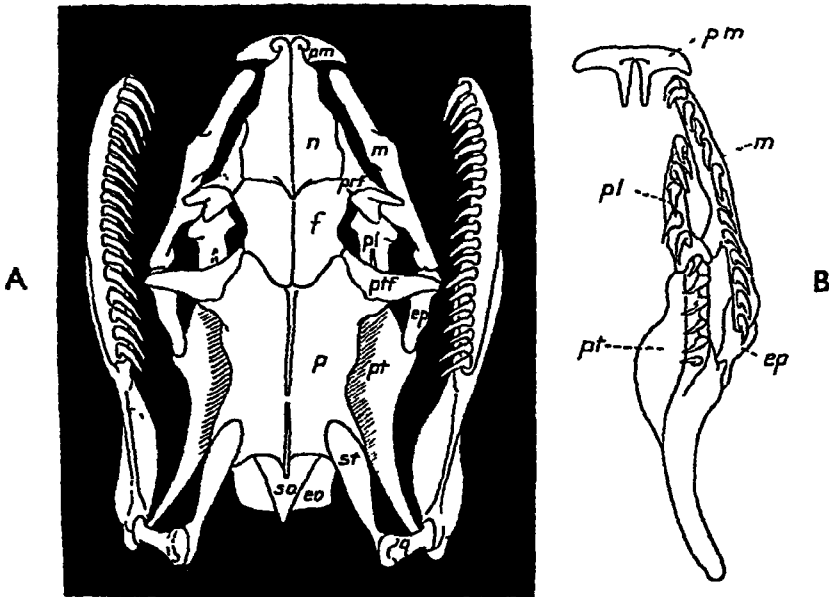


Fig 34—Skull of *Eryx conicus* A Dorsal view B Premaxilla and palato-maxillary arch

ca, columella auris (or stapes), eo, exoccipital, ep, ectopterygoid, f, frontal, m, maxilla, n, nasal, p, parietal; pl, palatine, pm, premaxilla, prf, prefrontal, pt, pterygoid, ptf, postfrontal, q, quadrate, so, supraoccipital, st, supratemporal

snout Eye small or very small with vertically elliptic pupil Body cylindrical, stout, scales small, tail very short, subcaudals usually single Mental groove usually present No genuals

Range Africa, S W. Asia to eastern Europe, Western China and India

Seven species are known, two of which inhabit India

Key to the Species

No mental groove; tail pointed	<i>conicus</i> , p 112
A mental groove, tail blunt	<i>johnei johnei</i> p 113

70 *Eryx conicus*.

RUSSELL'S SAND BOA

- Russell, 1796, *Ind Serp.* 1, p 5, pl iv (Madras)
Boa conica Schneider, 1801, *Hist. Amphib n.*, p. 268, and *Denkschr Akad Munchen* vii, 1821, p 119, pl vi, fig 2 (based on Russell) —
Gongylaphis conicus, Boulenger, F.B.I 1890, p 247, fig ,
Deraniyagala, Ceylon J Sci, B. xix, 1896, p 335, fig —*Eryx conicus*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus. 1, 1893, p 124, Wall, J Bombay N H S. xvi, 1905, p 292, and xxi, 1911, p 2, and xxix, 1923, p 353, Pitman, *ibid* xxxi, 1913, p 633, Powell, Levett-Yeats & Gharpurey, *ibid* xxiii, 1914, p 371-372, D'Abreu, *ibid* xxiv, 1916, p 193, Trench, *ibid* xxv, 1917, p 151, Prater, *ibid* xxx, (1) 1924, p 166, Fraser, *ibid* xxxix, 1937, p. 466, pl vi
Boa viperina Shaw, 1802, *Gen Zool* iii, p 355, pl c (based on Russell)
Boa ornata Daudin, 1802, *Hist Nat Rept.* v, p 210 (based on Russell)
Eryx bengalensis Guérin, 1830, *Iconog Reg Anim Rept* pl xx, fig 1

Rostral about twice as broad as high, just visible from above, without angular horizontal edge, nostril slit-like, between the two nasals and the internasals, only these scales enlarged, the rest of the head being covered with small, obtusely keeled scales, 8 to 10 scales across the forehead between the eyes, 10 to 15 scales round the eye, sometimes two series of scales separating the eye from the labials, which are from 12 to 14 in number, no mental groove Scales in 40 to 55 rows, more or less strongly, sometimes tubercularly, keeled, very strongly upon the tail V. 162-196, C 16-24 Tail pointed.

The hemipenis is not forked but the sulcus bifurcates near the tip of the organ, it is strongly flounced, the folds being arranged in oblique series, distally they are joined together and form large cups

Yellowish, brownish or greyish above, with a dorsal series of large, dark brown, black-edged spots, usually confluent with one another to form a zigzag stripe, lower parts yellowish or whitish, the outer scale-rows with small brown spots

Total length ♂ 480, tail 35, ♀ 940, tail 55 mm

Range Ceylon, the whole of India as far as Bihar and Orissa in the north-east, Naini Tal district in the Himalayas, and Sind and Baluchistan in the west, very rare in Ceylon Wall states that it is common in Cannanore in the Malabar

district and Ghazipur in the United Provinces. It has been recorded from the Central Provinces at an altitude of 2,200 feet.

It feeds upon small mammals, birds, snakes and frogs. From 6 to 8 young are produced at a time.

71- *Eryx johni johni* *.

JOHN'S SAND BOA

Boa johni Russell, 1801, Ind Serp ii, pp 18 & 20, pls xvi & xvii (Tranquebar)—*Eryx johni*, Boulenger, F. B. I 1890, p 248, fig, and Cat Sn Brit Mus. i, 1893, p 127, Wall, J Bombay N. H. S xx, 1911, p 1033, and xxx, 1911, p 12.

Eryx jaculus (non Linn) Wall, 1910, J Bombay N H S xix, p. 1000; Prater, ibid. xxx, 1924, p. 166.

Eryx jaculus var. *johni* Ingridby, 1923, J. Bombay N H S xxx, p 127; Wall, ibid. p 353

Rostral large, broader than high, well visible from above, with angular horizontal edge, nostril slit-like, between two

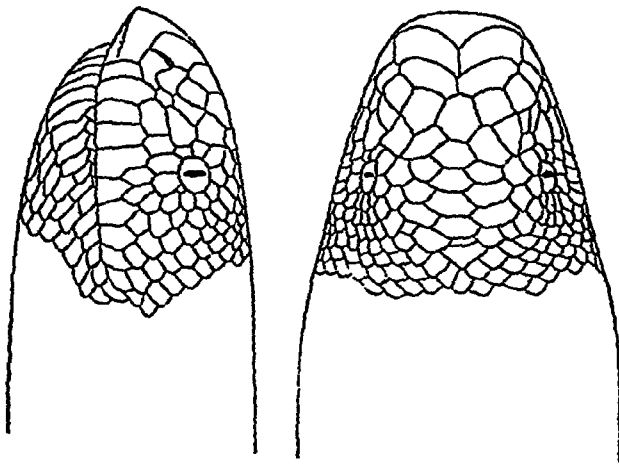


Fig 35—*Eryx johni* (After Boulenger, F B I 1890)

enlarged nasals, usually two pairs of broad scales behind the rostral; the other scales on the top of the head in front of the eyes being larger than those posterior to them, 6 to 9 scales across the forehead between the eyes, 10 or 11 scales round the eye, sometimes two series of scales separating the eye from the labials, which are from 10 to 12 in number; a mental groove. Scales in 53 to 67 rows, more or less distinctly keeled. V 190-210, C 20-34; anal entire, small. Tail blunt, covered at the tip with a large rounded shield.

* Named after the Rev Mr John of Tranquebar

Hemipenis as in *conicus*, but the bifurcation of the sulcus farther back, and the calyces more distinct

Sandy grey or yellowish above, the scales edged with dark brown, or entirely brown above; uniform or with more or less distinct dark transverse bands; these bands usually distinct on the tail; lower parts whitish, spotted with dark brown, or almost entirely brown.

Total length, ♂, 890, tail 90, ♀, 1000, tail 80 mm

Range North-western India Sindh, Rajputana, U.P. (Lucknow), Punjab, Baluchistan; N.W.F.P. In the two last named areas it meets the western form *E. j. persicus*

Russell's type-specimen, which is beautifully figured, came from Tranquebar, and he states that it "is not uncommon in Bengal" Whether this was true or not we cannot now say, but the regions to which he refers are well outside the area it now inhabits.

✓ Family COLUBRIDÆ.

Colubridæ Cope, 1893, Amer Nat p 480, Boulenger (in part), F. B. I 1890, p. 234, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 169, Stejneger & Barbour, Check-List N Amer Amph & Rept 1939, p 95

Amblycephalidæ Boulenger, F. B. I 1890, p. 414, and Cat III, 1896, p. 438.

Facial bones movable; prefrontal not in contact with the nasal, supratemporal attached loosely to the skull, suspending the quadrate; mandible without coronoid bone; teeth solid, or the posterior 2 or 3 grooved.

Range Cosmopolitan

✓ Key to the Subfamilies of the Colubridæ

- I No mental groove, hypapophyses absent on the posterior dorsal vertebrae DIPSADINÆ, p 115
- II A mental groove, hypapophyses present or absent on the posterior dorsal vertebrae.
 - A Ventral shields distinct
 - Scales completely or almost completely attached to the cutis, nostril in a large, concave shield, maxillary teeth not grooved XENODERMINÆ, p 123
 - Nostrils not valvular, usually lateral; scales imbricate COLUBRINÆ, p 135
 - Nostrils valvular, on the upper surface of the snout, last 2 or 3 maxillary teeth enlarged and grooved, ventrals rather narrow HOMALOPSINÆ, p 379
 - Palato-maxillary arch edentulous except for a few minute teeth, hypapophyses of the anterior thoracic vertebrae penetrating the wall of the cesophagus DASYPELTINÆ, p 403.

B No transversely enlarged ventral shields, head and body covered with small granular or tuberculate juxtaposed scales

. ACROCHORDINÆ, p 131.

Subfamily DIPSADINÆ.

Dipsadidæ Gunther, 1858, Cat Sn Brit. Mus p 162 (in part).

Dipsadinæ Amaral, 1923, Proc New Eng Zool Club, viii, p 95

Amblycephalidæ Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 414, and Cat. Sn.

Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 438, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 366

Supratemporal very small, reduced to a short rod of bone interposed between the cranium and the quadrate, solid teeth in both jaws, hypapophyses present only in the cervical vertebræ, genials large, broader than long, touching the infralabials, mental groove absent in the Asiatic species

Range S E Asia; Central and South America

Recent workers in this group have separated the American members from the Asiatic. The former can be connected, through *Sibon* (= *Leptognathus*) *sibon*, with the Colubrinæ;

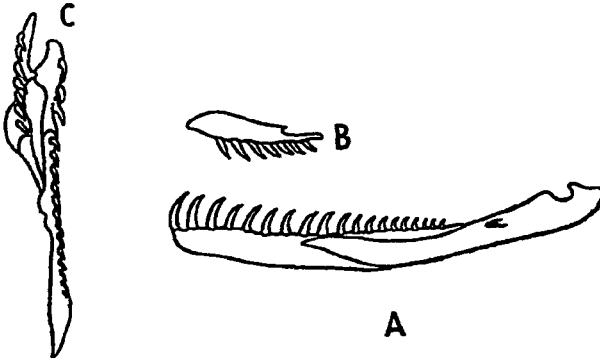


Fig. 36 —Jaw bones of *Pareas monticola*.

A Mandible B Maxilla C Palato-maxillary arch.

the Asiatic genera cannot be, the characters of the shields covering the lower jaw serving to distinguish them at once from all other snakes. Nevertheless, the two groups are closely allied to one another, and probably had a common origin. The mouth is peculiar in that the commissure extends far back beyond the fringe of the buccal membrane, while the short, high head and large eye bear a remarkable resemblance to that of the foetal snake. Another feature of the Dipsadinæ is the enormous development of the nasal gland.

Key to the Asiatic Genera

Scales in 15 rows, subcaudals paired
Scales in 13 rows, subcaudals single

. PAREAS, p. 116

HAPLOFELTURA, p 121

Genus PAREAS.

- Amblycephalus* (not of Zeder 1803) Kuhl, 1822, Isis, p 474 (nom nud); Boie, Isis, 1827, p 519 (type *lævis*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 414, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus. iii, 1896, p 440, and Ann Mag Nat Hist (8) xiv, 1914, p 484; Wall, Rec Ind Mus xxiv, 1922, p 19, Pope, Rept. China, 1935, p 366, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 419
- Pareas* Wagler, 1830, Syst. Amphib p. 181 (type *carinatus*), Theobald, Rept Brit Ind 1876, p 203
- Eberhardia* Angel, 1920, Bull Mus hist nat Paris, xxvi, p 291 (type *E tonkinensis*)

Maxillary bone short, thin, expanded vertically, with from 4 to 9 subequal teeth, preceded by an edentulous space, mandibular teeth gradually decreasing in length; prefrontal bone with a backward prolongation, more or less completely roofing the orbit. Head distinct from neck, eye large or moderate, with vertical pupil. Body more or less compressed, tail moderate, scales in 15 rows throughout, ventrals rounded, subcaudals paired.

Common characters, unless otherwise stated — Nostril in the nasal, rostral as high as broad or a little higher, usually first pair of genials largest, longer than broad, in contact with the mental or separated from it by the first pair of infralabials. Anal entire.

Hemipenis deeply forked, without spines.

Range The Indo-Chinese Subregion, Southern China, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago.

About 15 species are recognised.

The Indo-Chinese species fall into two natural groups, those of Section I of the key being terrestrial in their habits, those of Section II subarboreal. The members of each group are closely allied to one another and, although the characters which distinguish them are somewhat unstable, the combination given will always suffice. In disposition these small snakes are quiet and inoffensive. I have never known them to bite when handled. They are nocturnal in their habits and appear to live chiefly on small molluscs. They are oviparous, from 2 to 9 eggs being laid at a time.

Key to the Species

- I. Vertebral scales not enlarged, body not strongly compressed, head distinct from neck, eye moderate [p 117]
 Scales smooth *margaritophorus*,
 Scales keeled *macularius*, p 116
- II Vertebral scales enlarged, body strongly compressed, head very distinct from neck, eye large
 a Loreal in broad contact with the eye, no preocular *monticola*, p 118
 b Loreal excluded from or just touching the eye, a preocular

Frontal shorter than the parietal, prefrontal touching the eye	<i>hamptoni</i> , p 120
Frontal as long as or longer than the parietal, prefrontal excluded from the eye	<i>carinatus</i> , p 121

72. *Pareas margaritophorus*.

Leptognathus margaritophorus Jan, 1866, Nouv Arch Mus hist nat Paris, II, p 8 (Siam, Paris)—*Pareas margaritophorus*, Theobald, Cat Rept Brit Ind 1876, p 203—*Amblycephalus margaritophorus*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus III, 1896, p 445
Pareas mællendorffi Boettger, 1885, Ber Offenb Ver, p 125, and 1888, p 84, pl II, fig 1 (Lo-fou-shan Mts, Canton, Frankfurt), Cochran, Proc U S Nat Mus LXXVII, 1930 (2) p 37—*Amblycephalus mællendorffi*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus III, 1896, p 443, and Rept Malay Pen. 1912, p 210, Wall, Rec. Ind Mus XXIV, 1922, p 23, and J Bombay N H S XXX, 1925, p 245, Smith, Bull Raffles Mus, No 3, 1930, p. 88, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 373; Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine 1936, II, p 433

Eye moderate, its diameter equal to or a little less than its distance from the mouth internasals half, or less than half, as long as the prefrontals, the latter usually in contact with the eye, frontal about as long as broad, longer than its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; loreal longer than high, 1 pre- and 1 postocular, the latter often united with a long crescentic subocular; temporals 2+3, usually long and narrow, 6 or 7 supralabials, 4th below the middle of the eye; scales smooth, the vertebrae not enlarged V ♂ 138-153, ♀ 143-159, C ♂ 44-56, ♀ 32-42

Hemipenis extending to the 13th caudal plate, very deeply forked; divided into two portions by a fold which runs obliquely forwards from the sulcus; distal to the fold the organ is calyculate, the calyces being relatively uniform in size but without scalloped edges, proximal to the fold the organ is papillose, the papillae being triangular in shape, with broad bases, and arranged in longitudinal folds

Grey above with transverse bars on the sides composed of black and white spots, the anterior part of the scale being white, the posterior black, a white or yellow nuchal collar present or absent, lower parts whitish more or less thickly spotted or speckled with dark grey or black

Total length ♂ 345, tail 75, ♀ 470, tail 75 mm

Range French Indo-China, S China, Hainan, Siam; Tenasserim, the Malay Peninsula as far south as Kelantan

Common to many localities Plentiful on Hong Kong Island, at Bangnara in Patani (sea-level) and at Dalat, on the Langbian Plateau, Annam, at 5,000 feet

I have examined Jan's types of *margaritophorus* in Paris and have no hesitation in identifying them with the species commonly known as *mællendorffi*

73. *Pareas macularius*.

Pareas macularius Theobald, 1868, J Linn Soc x, p 54 (Martaban, S. Burma; London and Calcutta), Smith, Rec Ind Mus xli, 1940, p 480.—*Amblycephalus macularius*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 416, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus iii, 1896, p 445, Wall, Rec Ind Mus xxiv, 1922, p 24, and J Bombay N H S xxx, 1925, p 245, and xxxi, 1926, p 566

Pareas modestus Theobald, 1868, J. Linn Soc x, p 55, and Cat. Rept Brit Ind 1876, p 204 (Rangoon, Calcutta)—*Amblycephalus modestus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p. 416, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 444

Pareas andersoni Boulenger, 1888, Ann. Mus Civ. Genova (2) vi, p 601, pl v, fig 3 (Bhamo and Kakhien Hills, Genoa)—*Amblycephalus andersoni*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 416, and Cat Sn. Brit. Mus iii, 1896, p 444, and J Bombay N H S xvi, 1905, p 235.

Amblycephalus tandoensis Bourret, 1935, Bull Gen Instr Pub Hanoi, x, p 11 (Tam-dao, Tong-King, Paris) and Serp Indo chine, ii, 1936, p 431 (not seen by me)

Differs from *maellendorffi* in having the body more compressed, the median 3 to 7 dorsal scale-rows keeled, and in the character of the hemipenis. This extends to the 12th caudal plate and is forked at the junction of the proximal one-third and distal two-thirds. It can be divided into four areas, namely a small one near the tip composed of longitudinal folds, an area of small uniform calyces, an area in which the calyces become more papillose in character, and a proximal area near the bifurcation in which there are large smooth longitudinal folds. V. ♂ 148–166, ♀ 154–165, C ♂ 40–53, ♀ 39–45

Colour and size as in *margaritophorus*.

Range Burma (Htingnan, lat 26° 36", long 97° 52", Mogok, Kyaphyin, Shwali Man, Kalaw, Martaban), Bengal (Gopal-dhara, Darjeeling dist); Upper Laos; Tong-King.

74. *Pareas monticola*.

Dipsas monticola Cantor, 1839, P Z S. p. 53, (Naga Hills, Assam; London, col sketch in Bodleian Library)—*Pareas monticola*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 327, Anderson, P Z S 1871, p 188.—*Amblycephalus monticola*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 415, fig. and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 443; Annandale, J. A. S Bengal, 1905, p 176, and Rec. Ind Mus vii, 1912, p 50, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p. 334, and xix, 1909, pp. 356 and 843, and xxx, 1925, p 245, and Rec. Ind Mus xxiv, 1922, p 21; Bourret, Serp Indochine, ii, 1936, p 425 (in part)

Eye large, its diameter greater than its distance from the mouth; internasals about half as long as the prefrontals, the latter touching the eye; frontal longer than its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; loreal in broad contact with the eye; no preocular; a subocular touching the loreal and separating the anterior labials from

the eye, sometimes touching the postocular, 2 postoculars, the lower elongated and extending below the eye, temporals 2+2 or 2+3, 6 or 7 supralabials, last longest, 3rd and 4th, or 4th only, touching the eye, rarely excluded by the suboculars Scales smooth, the vertebral series enlarged. V ♂ 180-196, ♀ 177-195; C ♂ 79-87, ♀ 69-80.

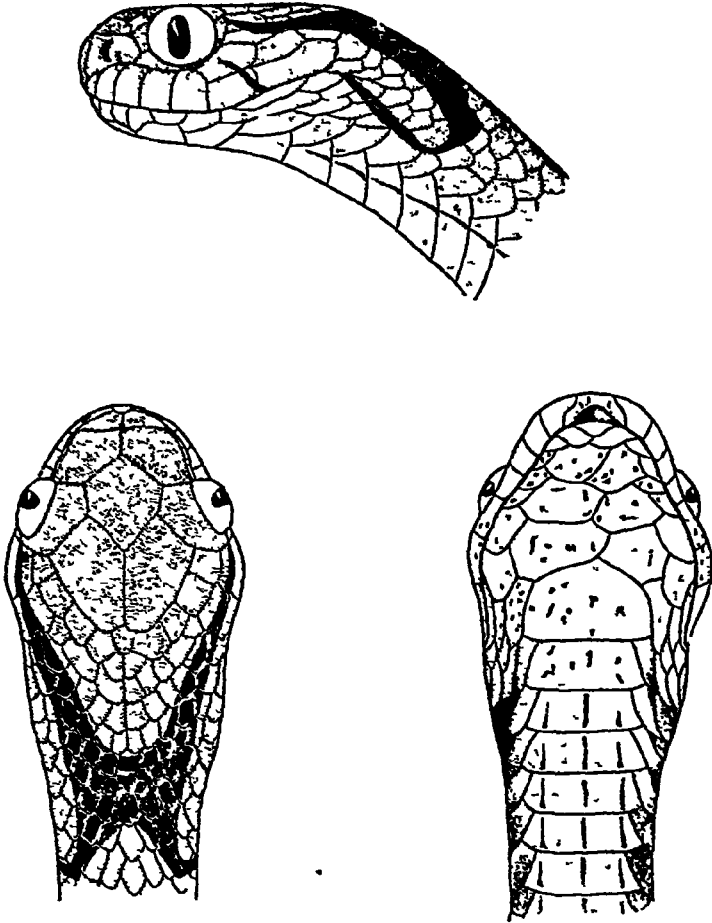


Fig 37 —*Pareas monticola*

Hemipenis extending to the 15th caudal plate, deeply forked; except for a small area near the bifurcation the organ is calyculate, the calyces being small, increasing slightly in size as they near the bifurcation and having slightly scalloped edges, for a short distance at the proximal end of the calyculate area the calyces are replaced by folds

Brown above with vertical blackish bars on the sides, or extending across the back, a black line from above the eye to the nape, and another from behind the eye to the angle of the mouth, top of head more or less thickly spotted with black, yellowish below, dotted with brown

Total length ♂ 560, tail 130, ♀ 730, tail 150 mm

Range Eastern Himalayas (Sikkim, Darjeeling district), Assam (Jairpur, Naga and Khasi Hills, Sadhya Frontier Tract) Annandale (1912) records that it is common in the Abor Foot-hills

75 *Pareas hamptoni*.

Amblycephalus hamptoni Boulenger, 1905, J. Bombay N H S xvi, p 236, pl — (Mogok, Burma, London), Parker, Ann Mag Nat Hist (9) xv, 1925, p 205, Wall, Rec Ind Mus xxiv, 1922, p 26, and J. Bombay N H S xxx, 1925, p 245 — *Pareas hamptoni*, Smith, Ann Mag Nat Hist (10) vi, 1930, p 681, and Rec Ind Mus xlv, 1940, p 480, map

Eberhardia tonkinensis Angel, 1920, Bull Mus Hist Nat Paris, xvi, p 291, figs 1-3 (Laokay, Tong-King, Paris), and ibid (2) i, 1920, p 80 — *Amblycephalus tonkinensis*, Bourret, Serp Indochine, ii, 1936, p 428, fig. Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 378, fig

Amblycephalus carinatus hainanus Smith, 1923, J. Nat Hist Soc Siam, vi, p 204 (Haman, London)

Amblycephalus carinatus berdmorei, Smith, Bull Raff Mus No 3, 1930, p 88 (in part)

Snout short, eye large, its diameter much greater than its distance from the mouth, internasals about half as long as the prefrontals, the latter touching the eye, frontal longer than its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietal, loreal as high as long, or higher, 1 pre- and 1 postocular, separated from one another by a long crescentic subocular, or the last two united temporals 2+2 or 2+3, 7 or 8 supralabials, 4th or 5th below the middle of the eye

Scales smooth or the median series feebly keeled, vertebral scales (1 or 3 rows) feebly enlarged V ♂ 191-196, ♀ 180-194, C ♂ 93-98, ♀ 73-87

Hemipenis short, extending to the 9th caudal plate, deeply forked, calyculate throughout, the calyces being very large and more or less uniform in size

Coloration and length as in *monticola*

Range Upper Burma (Mogok, Pangnamdim and Para Ga, north of the Triangle*), N E. Siam (near Pak Lai, lat 18°, Upper Mekong), Tong-King, Haman (Five Finger Mt), Annam (as far south as Kontum, lat 18° 25')

* The Triangle is the country between the N'mai Kha and Mali Kha Rivers as far north as lat 27° south of lat 26° they combine to form the Irrawaddy. For a map of this area see Smith 1940

76 *Pareas carinatus*.

- Amblycephalus carinatus* Boie, 1828, Isis, p 1035 (Java); Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 445, Smith, J. Nat Hist Soc Siam, ii, 1916, p 163, Wall, Rec Ind Mus xxiv, 1922, p 25, and J Bombay N H S xxx, 1925, p 246, Bourret, Serp Indochine, ii, 1936, p 435, fig head—*Pareas carinatus*, Cochran, Proc US Nat Mus lxxvii (ii), 1930, p 37
- Pareas berdmorei* Theobald, 1868, Cat. Rept. Asiat. Soc Mus p 63 (Tenasserim, Calcutta)—*Amblycephalus carinatus berdmorei*, Smith Bull Raff Mus No 3, 1930, p 88 (in part)
- Amblycephalus carinatus unicolor* Bourret, 1934, Bull. Gen Instr. Pub Hanoi (4), p 15, fig head (Kompong Speu, Cambodia; Paris), and Serp Indochine, 1936, p 437

Snout short, eye large, its diameter greater than its distance from the mouth, internasals shorter than the prefrontals, the latter not or just touching the eye, frontal longer than its distance from the end of the snout, as long as or longer than the parietals, 1 pre- and 1 postocular, 2 to 4 suboculars, excluding the eye from the labials, temporals 2+3 or 3+3, 7 to 9 supralabials, last longest, 4th and 5th, or 4th, 5th and 6th below the eye Scales feebly keeled, in females only the median series, vertebrae enlarged V 170-184, C 60-88

Hemipenis as in *monticola*

Coloration and length as in *monticola* Bourret records a specimen which is of a uniform reddish-brown colour (var *unicolor*) I have examined a specimen, almost uniform in colour, from Me Wang, N Siam

Range The Indo-Chinese Region south of lat 19°; the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago

The types of *P. berdmorei* are three in number, two adults and a juvenile Theobald, in 1868, referred the juvenile to *macularius* and his determination has been generally accepted. After carefully examining it, however, I am unable to agree with his opinion, and refer all three specimens to the same species

Genus HAPLOPELTURA.

- Aplopeltura* Dum & Bibr, 1853, Mem Ac Sc, Paris, xxiii, p 463 (type *Amblycephalus boa* Boie), and Erp Gén vii, 1854, p 444—*Haplopeltura*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 439.

Maxillary bone short, thin, expanded vertically, with 5 subequal teeth preceded by an edentulous space; mandibular teeth gradually decreasing in length Head distinct from neck, eye large, with vertical pupil Body compressed, tail long Scales smooth, in 13 rows, the vertebral scales enlarged, ventrals rounded; subcaudals single.

The skull is remarkable for the wide vacuity which occurs between the parietal, frontal and sphenoid bones, a character found also in *Psammophis*.

A single species

77 *Haplopeltura boa*.

Amblycephalus boa Boie, 1828, Isis, p. 1034 (Java); Günther, Rept Brit Ind, 1864, p. 325 — *Haplopeltura boa*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p. 439, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p. 208, De Rooij, Rept Indo-Austral Arch ii, 1917, p. 274, fig. 1. Smith, Bull Raffles Mus, No 3, 1930, p. 88

Snout short, its length equal to or a little shorter than the diameter of the eye, nostril in the nasal, rostral much higher than broad, internasals about half as long as the prefrontals, frontal much longer than broad, longer than its distance from the end of the snout, longer than the parietals, the latter sometimes broken up and succeeded by a series of occipital shields, 2 superposed loreals, eye surrounded by a series of 7 or 8 shields exclusive of the supraocular, temporals 2+2 or 3+3, 8 to 10 supralabials, 3 or 4 pairs of large genials, the anterior pair sometimes fused to, or preceded by, an azygous shield, first 2 or 3 pairs of infralabials in contact with each other behind the mental. Scales smooth, the vertebral series much enlarged V. 166-175, C 106-122, A 1. (Variation in six specimens from the Asiatic Mainland)

Hemipenis extending to about the 15th caudal plate, deeply forked, throughout its entire length the organ is beset with fine transverse folds, these are close together at the distal end and become gradually further apart from one another as they approach the bifurcation, the sulcus lips are very prominent and are involved in the folds

Yellowish, greyish, or pale brown above, yellowish or brownish beneath, indistinctly mottled and spotted with brown or dark grey, upper lip light yellow, 3 more or less distinct dark streaks radiating from the eye, one on the snout, one below the eye and one on the temporal region

A specimen obtained in the Nakon Sritamarat Mts, P Siam, was coloured in life as follows —Pale grey with narrow black cross-bars or almost complete bands, top of head and vertebral scales red, the former speckled with black

I have examined a female containing 4 eggs

Total length: ♂ 730, tail 260, ♀ 835, tail 265 mm

Range A Malayan species that just enters the Indo-Chinese Subregion Its habits are arboreal Two specimens in my collection were obtained in heavy jungle at Chumpon, just north of the Isthmus of Kra I do not know of any other records of this snake from the Indo-Chinese region

Subfamily XENODERMINÆ.

Xenoderminæ, Cope, Ann Rep Nat. Mus 1898, 1900, p 731;
Werner, Mitt Naturhist Mus Hamburg, xxvi, 1909, p. 206,
Smith, Ann Mag Nat Hist (11) iii, 1939, p 393.

A supraorbital bone; vertebrae with strong lateral expansions to the zygapophyses (except in *Achalinus* and *Fimbrios*); scales completely or almost completely attached to the cutis, more or less separated from one another by naked skin. Head with shields or granular scales, labials with more or less distinctly everted margins, nostril in a large, expanded, concave shield

Range Indo-China and the Malay Archipelago; Central America

Key to the Genera

- I Head very distinct from neck
No frontal or parietal shields, the whole head, except the snout, covered with small granular scales, back with 3 series of large tubercles XENODERMUS, p 123.
Frontal and parietal scales present, more or less entire; no enlarged tubercles on the back STOLICZKAIA, p. 125.
- II Head not or scarcely distinct from neck, completely shielded
Scales in 21 to 27 rows, labials without strongly everted edges ACHALINUS, p. 126.
Scales in 30 to 33 rows; anterior labials with strongly everted edges FIMBRIOS, p. 128

Genus XENODERMUS.

Xenodermus Reinhardt, 1836, Overs Viden. Selsk. Forh p. 6 (type *javanicus*); Boulenger, Cat Sn. Brit Mus 1, 1893, p. 175;
Smith, Ann Mag Nat Hist (11) iii, 1939, p. 393
Gomonotus Gray, 1846, in Stoke's Discov. in Australia, 1, p 502 (type *plumbeus*)

Maxillary teeth equal, about 15 on each side; head distinct from neck, eye moderate, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril in a large concave nasal, internasals and prefrontals present, the rest of the head covered with small granular, keeled scales. Body slender, feebly compressed, with very small elliptical, keeled scales, and three longitudinal series of enlarged tubercles, a vertebral and two dorso-lateral, ventrals well developed; tail long; subcaudals single. Vertebrae with expanded spinous process* and strong lateral expansions to the zygapophyses

A single species.

Range The Malayan Region

* Found also in the South American *Xenopholis*.

78 *Xenodermus javanicus*.

Xenodermus javanicus Reinhardt, l c s , and K Danske Vidensk Selsk Skrift x, 1843, p 257, pl n, figs 1-8 (Java), Boulenger, l c s , De Rooij, Rept Indo-Austral Arch n, 1917, p 44, figs . Smith, Bull Raffles Mus No 3, 1930, p 40, Kopstein, Bull Raffles Mus. No 14, 1938, p 168, pl 28

Gonionotus plumbeus Gray, l c s (type loc unknown . London)

Internasals narrow, extending backwards above the nasal ; prefrontals separated from one another by granules , rest of head covered with very small, juxtaposed, keeled scales , a series of small but distinct supra- and infralabials, their posterior edges everted ; first pair of infralabials narrow, in contact with one another behind the mental , a pair of elongated gemals Sides of body with very small, elliptical, keeled scales, more or less separated from one another by naked skin , dorsum, between the lateral tubercles, with very

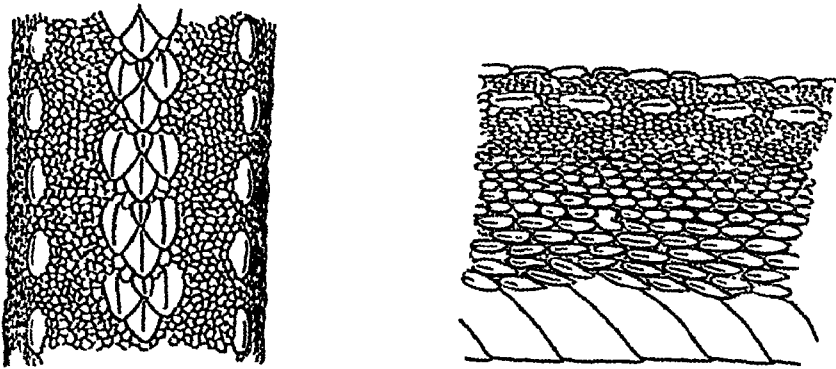


Fig 38 —Scalation of *Xenodermus javanicus* at mid-body
A Dorsal B Lateral view

small, juxtaposed, keeled scales , three series of enlarged, keeled tubercles, extending the whole length of the body and tail, namely, a vertebral composed of three juxtaposed rows, and two dorso-lateral single rows V ♂ 171-177 , C 147-165 V ♀ 176-186 . C 133-150 (Kopstein) , A 1

Dark brown or blackish above, greyer on the sides and below.

Total length : ♂ 670, tail 250 , ♀ 645, tail 245 mm

Range The Malayan Region. Robinson & Kloss obtained a specimen at Victoria Point, S Tenasserim ; it is a female ; V 170, C 103, the extreme tip of the tail being missing

Kopstein records a large series found in mid-Java at between 500 and 1100 metres altitude He states that it is a nocturnal snake, living in loose and wet earth beneath the surface of

the ground. It frequents mostly cultivated fields, and feeds on frogs. Its movements are very slow. From 2 to 4 eggs are laid at a time.

The Malayan specimens and the one from Tenasserim were caught at sea-level near the coast.

Genus **STOLICZKAIA.**

Stoliczkaia Jerdon, 1870, Proc Asiat Soc. Bengal, p. 81 (type *khasiensis*); Boulenger, F.B.I. 1890 p. 354, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 175, Smith, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (11) iii, 1939, p. 393.

Teeth small, subequal, 16 to 20 in each maxilla, head very distinct from neck, with large shields, the shields entire.

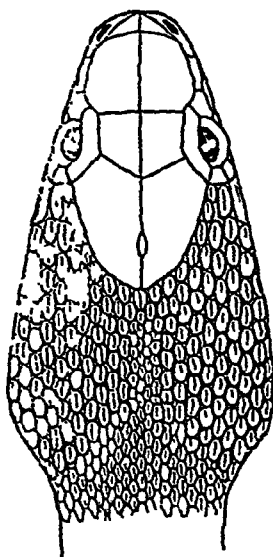


Fig. 39.—*Stoliczkaia khasiensis*.

or separated by small scales; posterior one-third of head and temporal regions covered with small scales like those of the body, nostril in a large concave nasal, eye large with vertically subelliptic pupil. Body slender, compressed, scales small, elliptical, keeled, juxtaposed or separated from one another by naked skin, in 29 to 31 rows, ventrals large; tail long and slender, subcaudals single. Vertebrae with much elongated spinous processes and strong lateral expansions to the zygapophyses.

Range Assam and Borneo.

Two species

79 *Stoliczkaia khasiensis*.

Stoliczkaia khasiensis Jerdon, 1870, P. A S Bengal, p. 81 (Khasi Hills, London), Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p. 355, fig., and Cat. Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p. 176, Annandale, J. A S Bengal, 1904, p. 209, pl ix, figs 2, 2a, 2b, Wall, J Bombay, N. H S xxix, 1923, p. 598

Rostral small, not visible from above, internasals small, subtriangular, prefrontals very large, frontal broader than long, about 4 times as broad as the supraoculars, half as long as the parietals, partially or completely divided by a longitudinal suture; a small loreal, 1 large pre- and 2 post oculars, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, last very long, anterior genuals partly separated from the infralabials by small scales, no posterior genuals. Dorsal scales separated from one another by naked skin; laterals larger and juxtaposed V. 208-210, C. 115-116, A 1

Purplish-brown above, ventrals and three outer scale-rows white with brown bases

Total length 670, tail 190 mm.

Range The type-specimen is from the Khasi Hills; Annandale records a second specimen from Assam, without exact data of locality.

Genus *ACHALINUS*.

Achalinus Peters, 1869, Mon Akad Berlin, p. 436 (type *spinalis*), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p. 308, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p. 180, Smith, Ann Mag Nat. Hist (11) iii, 1939, p. 393

Ophelaps Sauvage, 1877, Bull Soc Phil Paris (7) 1, 108 (type *braconieri*).

Maxillary teeth 20 to 30, small, equal, mandibular teeth equal; head not or scarcely distinct from neck; eye moderate, with vertically subelliptic pupil, nostril in the anterior part of a large concave nasal, or the shield partially divided by a vertical suture, no preocular, the loreal extending from the nasal to the eye, postoculars not distinct from anterior temporals. Body slender, cylindrical; scales in 21 to 27 rows, keeled, ventrals large, rounded; tail moderate, sub-caudals single

Range Japan, China, Tong-King.

Three or four species, one of which inhabits Indo-China

80 *Achalinus rufescens*.

Achalinus rufescens Boulenger, 1888, Ann Mag Nat. Hist (6) ii, p. 43 (Hong-kong London), Pope, Rept. China, 1935, p. 181, fig; Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p. 138, fig

Achalinus merdianus Smith, 1923, J. Nat Hist Soc Siam, vi, p. 200 (Nam-kaio, S Hainan, London)

Stoleczlaia kwangsiensis Fan, 1931, Bull Dept Biol Col Sci Sun Yat Sen Univ (11) p 44, fig (Lohsiang, Kwangsi), Pope, Rept China, 1935, p. 181

Achalinus niger Bourret, 1935, Bull Gen Instr Pub Hanoi, viii, p 3, and Serp Indochine, 1936, p 139 (Tam-dao, Tong-King; Paris), and *Achalinus ater*, *ibid* Dec. 1937, p 72

? *Achalinus spinalis*, and *braconneri* Bourret, *l c s* pp 141, 142

Rostral small, as broad as high, just visible from above; suture between the internasals longer than that between the

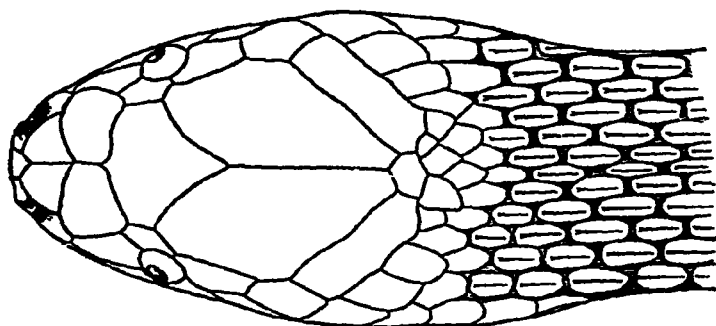
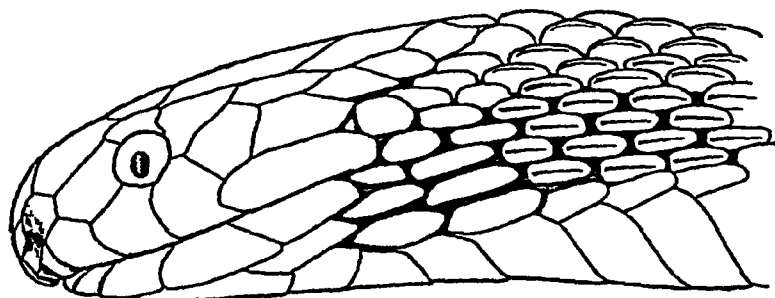


Fig 40 — *Achalinus rufescens* (B M. 1924 5,22 10)

prefrontals; frontal as broad as long, broadly truncate in front, shorter than its distance from the end of the snout; loreal large, temporals 2+2, usually only one anterior touching the eye, a large temporal shield bordering the parietal behind; 6 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 6th very long; mental very short, just a strip; 3 infralabials in contact with the anterior genials, which are about as long as the posterior; first ventral in contact with the latter; mental and first two upper and lower labials with feebly raised,

everted margins Scales strongly keeled, some distinctly tricarinate, in 25 rows V 137-157, C 57-82, A 1

Hemipenis very long and slender, extending to the 24th caudal plate, forked opposite the 4th, the distal one-third is calyculate, the calyces being small, of uniform size, and presenting a sponge-like or honeycomb appearance, proximal to this the organ is flounced, the folds being transversely placed and set closely to one another, at the base are much thicker and more widely separated flounces, extending the whole length of the organ are two prominent folds opposite one another, one of which encloses the sulcus

Reddish-brown dark grey above, paler below.

Total length 390, tail 75 mm (♀)

Range Hainan, Tong-King, Southern China, Hong Kong

Genus FIMBRIOS.

Fimbrios Smith, 1920, P Z S p 425 (type *Klossi*), and Ann Mag. Nat Hist (11), III, 1939, p 393.

Maxillary teeth small, 30 to 35, equal, dentary loosely attached to the articular. Head not distinct from neck, eye small, with rounded or vertically subelliptic pupil, nostril in the anterior part of a large concave nasal, no preocular; loreal very large, extending from the nasal to the eye, rostral, mental and labials with raised, everted edges Body slender, cylindrical, scales keeled, in 30 to 33 rows, ventrals rounded, tail moderate, subcaudals single

A single species

81. *Fimbrios klossi*.

Fimbrios Klossi Smith, 1920, P Z S, p 425, fig (Langbian plateau, S Annam, London), Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 181, Bourret, Bull Gen. Instr Pub Hanoi, May, 1937, p 28, and Dec 1939, p 23

Rostral separated from the internasals by a horizontal ridge of tissue; suture between the internasals shorter than that between the prefrontals, frontal broader than long, broadly truncate in front, about three times as broad as the supraoculars, shorter than its distance from the end of the snout, 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, the latter scarcely distinct from the temporals, which are 3+3 or 3+4, a subocular; 9 or 10 supralabials, last very long, anterior genials very large, covering nearly the whole of the chin in front, in contact with the first ventral, no posterior genials Scales feebly imbricate anteriorly, some of the interstitial skin showing, more strongly imbricate posteriorly V. 161-176; C 43-58, A 1

Hemipenis deeply forked, the area distal to the bifurcation

* Foreshadowing the condition so marked in *Fimbrios*

being spinous, the spines at the extreme tip much the largest ; proximal to the bifurcation it is smooth ; the sulcus lips are very prominent.

Olivaceous to dark grey above, whitish below , the posterior ventrals and subcaudals edged with darker.

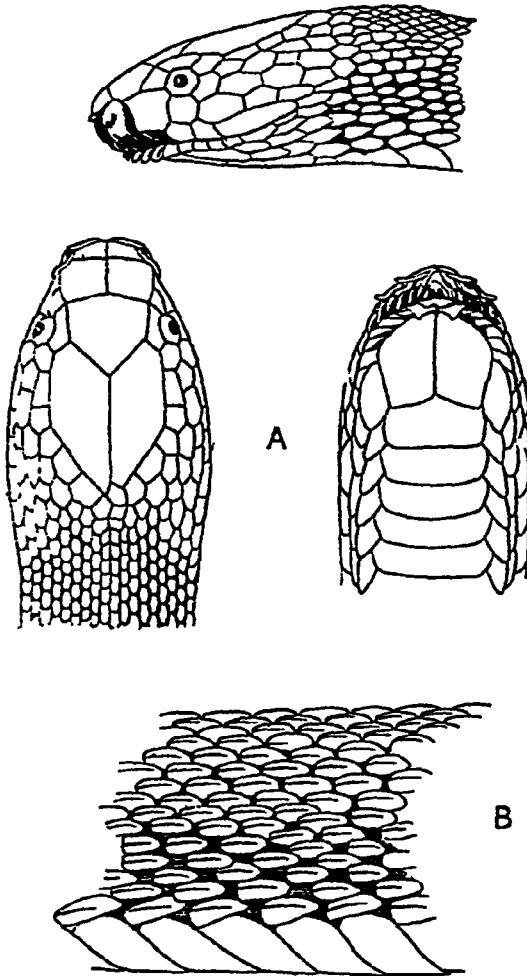


Fig. 41 — *Fimbrios klossi*.

A Dorsal, lateral and ventral views of head. B Dorsal scalation.

Total length : 395, tail 50 mm (♀)

Range S Annam (Dalat and Camly on the Langbian plateau, Dong Tam-ve, Quang-tri Prov) ; Cambodia (Bockor, Elephant Mts).

Found in the hills at from 3,000 to 5,000 feet. Not uncommon at Bockor.

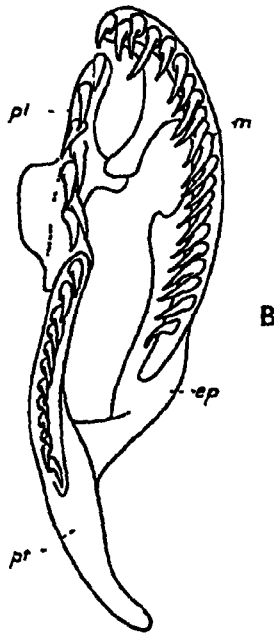
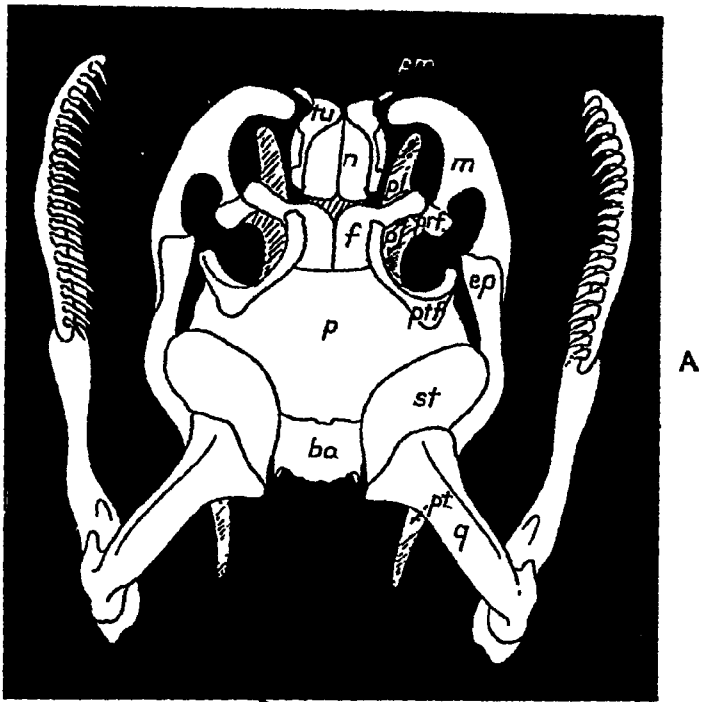


Fig. 42 — *Acrochordus javanicus* A Dorsal view of skull B Palato-maxillary arch
 bo, basioccipital, ep, ectopterygoid (or transpalatine), f, frontal, m., maxilla, n, nasal, p, parietal; pl, palatine, pm, premaxilla, prf, prefrontal; pt, pterygoid; ptf, postfrontal, q, quadrate, st supratemporal; tu, turbinal

Subfamily ACROCHORDINÆ

Acrochordidæ Jan, 1863, *Elenco sist Ofid* p 106 (in part), Cope, *Proc Acad Philad* 1864, p 231—*Acrochordinæ* Boulenger, *Cat Sn Brit Mus* 1, 1893, p 172 (in part); Haas, *Zool Jahrb. Jena (Anat)*, liv, 1931 (3), p 378, Smith, *Ann Mag Nat Hist* (11) ii, 1939, p 393

Postorbital bone produced over the supraciliary region, frontal with an expansion on either side in front; prefrontal small, vertically suspended from the end of the expansion, not extending forwards upon the snout. Skin of the body loose, with small scales, no ventral shields. Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column.

A single genus

Genus ACROCHORDUS.

WART SNAKES

Acrochordus Hornstedt, 1787, *Abh Acad*, Stockholm, viii, p 307 (type *javanicus*), Boulenger, *Cat Sn. Brit Mus* 1, 1893, p 173, de Rooij, *Rept. Indo-Austral Archipel* 11, 1917, p 42, Schmidt *Zool Jahrb Jena*, xl (Anat), 1917, p 155

Potamophis (not of Cantor or Fitzinger) Schmidt, 1852, *Abh Naturw Hamburg* 11, p 75 (type *javanicus*)

Chersydrus Cuvier, 1817, *Regne Anim* 11, p 75 (type *fasciatus*), Boulenger, *F B I.* 1890, p. 355 and *Cat I c s* p 173, de Rooij, *I c s*, p 43

Maxillary teeth subequal, 12 to 15 on each side, anterior mandibular teeth longest, head not distinct from neck, covered with small, granular scales, nostrils close together, surrounded by a circular nasal shield, eyes on the upper surface of the head, very small, with vertically elliptic pupil, mentum produced forwards and fitting into a deep concavity in the upper jaw, a longitudinal depression in the chin behind the mentum, body stout, covered with loose skin, scales very small, juxtaposed or subimbricate, no ventral shields; tail rather short, feebly compressed, prehensile.

Range India; Indo-China and the Indo-Australian Archipelago, N Australia

Two species

The presence of a distinct median abdominal fold in *Chersydrus granulatus* does not seem sufficient to separate it generically from *Acrochordus*

In *A. granulatus* the columella auris is normal, in *A. javanicus* it is reduced to a short rod of bone or cartilage attached to the fenestra ovalis but not reaching the quadrate.

Key to the Species

Nostrils at the end of the snout, pointing mainly forwards, no distinct fold of skin along the median line of the belly

javanicus, p 132

Nostrils on the upper surface of the snout, pointing mainly upwards, a distinct raphe along the median line of the belly ..

granulatus, p 134

82 *Acrochordus javanicus*.

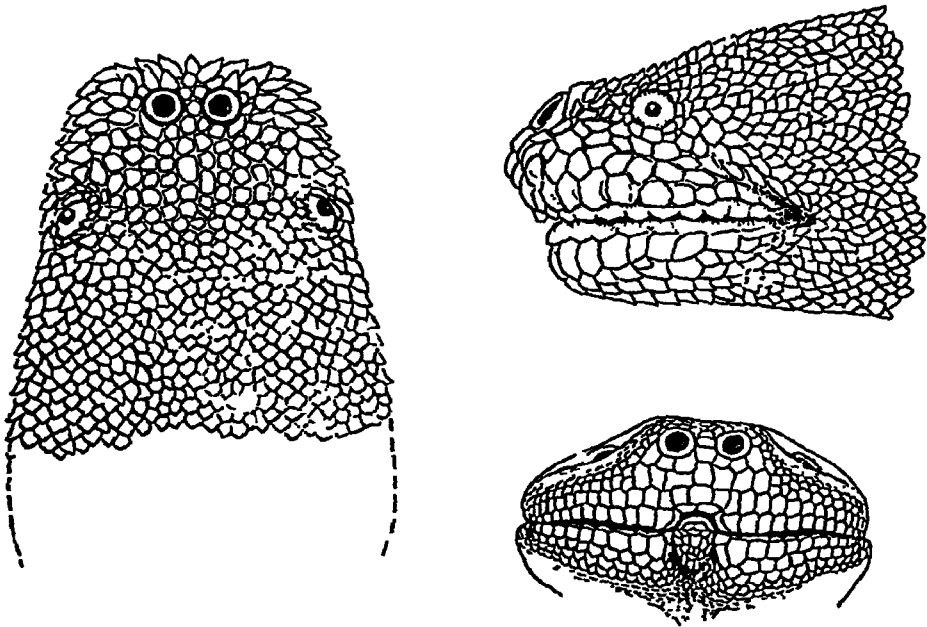
JAVA WART SNAKE, ELEPHANT'S TRUNK SNAKE

Acrochordus javanicus Hornstedt, l c s, pl xii (Java), Schlegel, *Abbild Amphib* 1839, pl xvii (skull), Boulenger, *Cat Sn Brit Mus* 1, 1893, p 173, Smith, *J Nat Hist Soc, Siam*, 1, 1914, p 13, photo — *Potamophis javanica*, Schmidt, 1852, *Abh Naturw. Hamburg*, 11, p 75.

Acrochordus dubius Shaw, 1802, *Gen Zool* iii, p 575, pl cxxix (type loc unknown)

Chersydrus granulatus, Wall, *J Bombay N H S* xxiii, 1914, p 372

Snout blunt, nostrils pointing almost directly forwards;



A

Fig 43 — *Acrochordus javanicus* A Dorsal, lateral and front views of head B Photograph of a piece of dorsal skin ($\times 9$).

eyes on the upper surface of the head, pointing upwards and outwards; head above with very small scales, 18 to 22 on a line between the eyes, tubercular or spinous on the vertex, larger and flat towards the mouth; a series of small supra- and infralabials, 25 to 30 in number, 130 to 150 scales round the body, the scales juxtaposed, broader than long, trifold, the median spine the longest; no fold of skin along the middle of the belly, except sometimes anteriorly; the scales on the mid-line are narrower and have longer spines than those adjacent to them.

Hemipenis forked for more than half its length ; the distal end as far as the bifurcation is strongly spinous, the spines involving the lips of the sulcus ; proximal to the bifurcation there are smooth longitudinal folds

Brown or olive-brown above, paler below, flanks with large rounded or elongated spots. Young individuals are usually spotted all over above



B

Total length. ♂ 1150, tail 250 ; ♀ 1835, tail 320. girth 275 mm

Range Siam, Cambodia, Cochin China ; the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago, Queensland.

The Elephant's Trunk Snake, as it is called by the Siamese is not uncommon in the vicinity of Bangkok, inhabiting the river and the canals which abound there. On land it is quite

out of its element and its movements are slow and clumsy, progressing more like a gigantic worm than like a snake. It is of an extremely sluggish disposition, and in the day-time can hardly be induced to move. If handled quietly it makes no attempt to bite, but if roughly seized will turn swiftly and with its large teeth can inflict severe wounds. It appears to feed entirely upon fish. It is a prolific creature producing from 25 to 32 young at a time.

The snake recorded by Wall (1914) is not now available for examination, but it surely refers to this species and not the next one.

83 *Acrochordus granulatus*.

- Hydrus granulatus* Schneider, 1799, Hist. Amph. 1, p. 243 (India) —
Chersydrus granulatus, Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 355, fig. and
 Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 174. Annandale, J. A. S. Bengal,
 1905, p. 175, and Mem. Ind. Mus. v, 1915, p. 169. Wall, J.
 Bombay N. H. S. xxv, 1918, p. 756, and Sn. Ceylon, 1921,
 p. 79. Prater, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxx, (1) 1924, p. 167.
Acrochordus fasciatus Shaw, 1802, Gen. Zool. iii, p. 576, pl. 130
 (type loc. unknown).
Chersydrus annulatus Gray, 1849, Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. p. 61 (Singapore & Madras; London).

Eyes more lateral than in *A. javanicus*, nostrils on the upper surface of the snout, pointing mainly upwards, scales on the snout a little larger than those on the hind part of the head; an enlarged scale behind each nasal shield, 8 to 11 scales on a line between the eyes, a series of enlarged scales on the lips separated from the border of the mouth by smaller scales, about 100 scales round the middle of the body, juxtaposed, or feebly imbricate, with a central tubercle or short keel, a fold of skin along the middle of the belly covered with small spinous scales, hinder part of body and tail more compressed than in *A. javanicus*.

Hemipenis forked for more than half its length, and longitudinally pleated throughout, the folds on the distal half bearing spines, the sulcus lips are very prominent and are not spinose.

Dark grey or blackish with whitish cross-bars or annuli which may become indistinct in the adult, the dark bands round the body are broader above than below, head dark grey with light spots above. Rarely the white colour may predominate, so that the snake appears white with dark cross-bars.

Total length 1000, tail 100 mm ♀.

Range The coasts of Ceylon, India, and Indo-China, as far as Bombay in the West and Cochin China in the East, the Nicobar Is., south through the Indo-Australian Archipelago to the north coast of Australia and the Solomon Islands.

According to Wall it is fairly abundant round the coasts of India. It is exceedingly common in the Gulf of Siam, inhabiting the seas chiefly in the neighbourhood of estuaries. Large numbers are daily caught by the fishermen in their nets. It feeds upon fish and is of a quiet and inoffensive disposition. Like *A. javanicus* it is helpless on land. From 6 to 8 young are produced at a time. They average at birth about 220 mm in length.

Subfamily COLUBRINÆ.

Colubrinæ, Cope, Ann Rep U.S. Nat Mus 1898,—Part II Croc, Liz and Snakes of N. Amer. 1900, p. 778, Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p. 278, and Cat. Sn. Brit Mus 1, 1893, p. 177.
Colubrinæ and *Boiginae*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p. 78.
Natricinae, *Coronellinae* and *Boiginae*, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p. 31.

Nostril usually lateral, head covered with large symmetrical shields, ventrals well developed. Teeth solid, or the posterior 2 or 3 grooved, hypapophyses absent or present on the posterior dorsal vertebræ.

Key to the Genera of the Colubrinæ

- A. All the teeth solid, not grooved (*Aglypha*)
 - I Hypapophyses absent on the posterior dorsal vertebræ, the lower surface of which is smooth or with a low keel
 - A Posterior maxillary teeth longest
 - 1 Pupil round
 - a Longitudinal series of scales in odd numbers
 - Last 2 or 3 teeth usually larger and separated from the others by a distinct interval, one or more suboculars, scales in 19–33 rows, head distinct from neck. COLUBER, p. 166
 - 12–20 teeth, last 2 largest, and separated or not from the rest by an interval, scales in 23 rows, no subocular. CORONELLA, p. 193
 - 20–28 teeth, gradually enlarged and forming a continuous series, scales in 17 (16, 18) or 15 rows, 2 or 3 loreals. PTYAS, p. 158
 - 25–30 teeth gradually enlarged, and forming a continuous series, scales in 17 rows, the vertebrals enlarged. XENELAPHIS, p. 176.
 - 6–16 teeth, the posterior strongly enlarged and compressed, head not or scarcely distinct from neck, rostral large, usually extending well on to the upper surface of the snout (fig. 62), scales smooth, in 13–21 rows. OLIGODON, p. 195^b
 - b Longitudinal series of scales in even numbers

- Scales in 14-18 rows ZAOOYS, p 163
- 2 Pupil vertically elliptic, 6-10 teeth
- Scales in 13 or 15 rows DRYOCALAMUS, p 272
- Scales in 19 rows, snout cuneiform, with projecting rostral LYTORHYNCHUS, p 189
- B Maxillary teeth subequal; pupil round
- Scales in 19 to 27 rows, with apical pits ELAPHE, p 189
- Scales in 15 rows, without apical pits, colour green OPHEODRYS, p 177
- Scales in 15 rows, with apical pits, colour not green CONTIA, p 187
- Scales in 13 to 17 rows, without apical pits, colour not green LIOPELTIS, p 181
- Scales in 13 rows, no loreal, no internasals, no temporals CALAMARIA p 236
- Scales in 19 rows, a long, pointed nasal appendage covered with small scales RHYNCHOPHIS, p 192
- Scales in 13 to 15 rows, oblique, the vertebrae enlarged, ventrals and caudals with a suture-like lateral keel and a notch on each side, corresponding to the keel AHÆTULLA, p 239
- C Some of the anterior maxillary teeth enlarged and fang-like, pupil vertically elliptic, scales in 15 to 19 rows
- Maxillary bone strongly arched, scales in 17, rarely 15, rows, smooth or feebly keeled, subcaudals paired LYCODON, p 255
- Maxillary bone not arched, scales in 17 rows, the median feebly keeled, subcaudals paired DINODON, p 269
- Maxillary bone strongly arched, scales in 19 rows, strongly keeled, subcaudals single CERCASPIS, p 267
- II Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column, represented on the posterior dorsal vertebrae by a more or less developed crest or tubercle projecting below the centrum
- A Dentary bone attached loosely to the apex of the articular and freely movable on it, 30 to 50 teeth, equal in size SIBYNOPHIS, p 276
- Scales smooth, in 17 rows
- B Dentary bone not, or but slightly, movable on the articular, usually less than 30 teeth
- 1 Posterior maxillary teeth longest
- a 2 internasals, pupil round
- Maxillary teeth 18 to 35, scales in 15 to 19 rows, not disposed obliquely NATRIX, p 281
- Maxillary teeth 20 to 28, the last two abruptly enlarged, scales in 19 rows, disposed obliquely anteriorly [p 311
- Maxillary teeth 11 to 18, followed by a pair of very large fangs, scales in 25 to 27 rows, strongly keeled PSEUDOXENODON, [p 314.
- MACROPISTHODON,

- b* 2 internasals, pupil vertical
 Maxillary teeth 35, the last three much larger than the others [p 316.
 PARABHABDOPHIS,
- c* 1 internasal
 Nostril directed upwards and outwards, scales in 19 rows ATRETIUM, p 319
- 2 Maxillary teeth equal, 20 to 25, head distinct from neck
 Nostril in the nasal, scales in 19 rows, strongly keeled XENOCHROPHIS, p 317
- 3 Maxillary teeth subequal, head not distinct from neck, scales in 13 to 19 rows
a Nostril directed forwards and outwards
 18 to 20 teeth, head shields normal or prefrontal single, scales in 13 to 15 rows TRACHISCHIUM, p 321.
 20 to 24 teeth, internasal single; no loreal, scales in 15 to 17 rows ASPIDURA, p 334
 20 to 22 teeth, no loreal or preocular, scales in 13 rows BLYTHIA, p 338
 28 to 30 teeth, no preocular, anterior genials very large, scales in 13 to 15 rows XYLOPHIS, p 341
 10 to 12 teeth, internasal single; no loreal, scales in 17 rows HAPLOCERCUS, p 340.
- b* Nostril not directed forwards.
 Nostril lateral, between two nasals, or between them and the first labial, body not elongate; scales in 15 rows [p 324.
 Nostril in the nasal, valvular, crescentic, body elongate, scales in 17 rows PLAGIOPHOLIS,
 Nostril in the nasal, directed upwards and outwards, prefrontal very broad, usually single, scales in 15-19 rows RHABDOPHIS, p 327.
 [p 330-
 OPISTHOTROPIS,
- B.** Last 2 or 3 maxillary teeth grooved; hypapophyses present or absent on the posterior dorsal vertebræ (*Opisthoglypha*)
A. Pupil round
 Solid maxillary teeth 20 to 24, subequal, scales in 19 rows, ventrals rounded BALANOPHIS, p 310.
 Solid maxillary teeth 18 to 20, subequal, scales in 17 rows, ventrals and caudals with a suture-like lateral keel, and a notch on each side corresponding to the keel CHRYSOPELEA, p 250
 Maxillary teeth 10 to 13, one or two in the middle enlarged and fang-like; scales in 17 rows PSAMMOPHIS, p 361.
- B.* Pupil vertical
 Solid maxillary teeth 10 to 14, subequal, scales more or less oblique, vertebrals enlarged, in 19 to 29 rows BOIGA, p 344
 Solid maxillary teeth 8 to 12, anterior longest, scales oblique, vertebrals not enlarged, in 23 rows TARBOPHIS, p. 360.
 Maxillary teeth 18 to 20, the median enlarged and fang-like, scales in 17 rows [p 368.
 PSAMMODYNASTES,
C. Pupil horizontal
 Scales oblique, in 15 rows DRYOPHIS, p 370.

To arrange the many genera enumerated in serial order is not possible. *Elaphe* and its allies, the Colubrine or Coronelline branch of the Colubridæ, in having a simpler type of dentition and no hypapophyses on the posterior dorsal vertebræ, are less specialized than are the members of the Natricine branch and are placed first. On the other hand, as shown by their variety of form and coloration, and the multiplicity of their races, they are just as highly advanced, if not more so. They are very distinctly on the upgrade.

I arrange the genera in 10 groups. The members of each one are related to one another, but not necessarily to those of any other group. The arrangement for many of the genera is tentative and further research will no doubt modify what is expressed here.

1 *Elaphe*, *Ptyas*, *Coluber*, *Zaocys*, *Opheodrys*, *Liopeltis*, *Contia*, *Xenelaphis*, *Lytorhynchus*, *Rhynchophis*—The Old World species of *Coluber* inhabit S W Asia, Europe and North Africa. Although certain differences in dentition and in the number of scales round the body distinguish them as a whole from their North American relatives, there are too many exceptions to separate them generically. *Ptyas* is closely related to the American species of *Coluber*, to the Malayan *Gonyophis*, and also to *Zaocys*, with which it connects through *P mucosus*. Together with *Elaphe*, they form a fairly well-defined group. *Opheodrys*, *Liopeltis* and *Contia* are presumably derived from them. *Lytorhynchus* is closely related to the American *Phyllorhynchus* as perhaps also is *Rhynchophis*.

2 *Coronella*, *Oligodon*, *Calamuria*—*Coronella* is closely related to the American *Lampropeltis*.

3 *Ahaetulla*, *Chrysopelea*—Their nearest relatives are the Ethiopian *Chlorophis* and *Philophthalmus* and the Malayan *Dryophis*.

4. *Lycodon*, *Dimodon*, *Cercasps*, *Dryocalamus*—The first three genera are closely related to one another and to the African *Boædon*, *Lycophudion* and *Simocephalus*. Through the Malayan *Lepturophis* and the Indo-Australian *Stegonotus* they connect with *Dryocalamus*.

5 *Sibynophis* has no near relatives.

6. *Natrix*, *Pseudoxenodon*, *Macropisthodon*, *Balanophis*, *Pararhabdophis*, *Atretum*, *Xenochrophis*—*Natrix* is the least specialized and most widely distributed, its range is cosmopolitan. *Pseudoxenodon*, *Macropisthodon*, *Balanophis* and *Pararhabdophis* have been derived from it, and together they form a closely related group. *Atretum* has affinities with the American *Helicops* and *Liodytes*.

7 *Trachischium*, *Aspidura*, *Blythia*, *Xylophis*, *Haplocercus*, *Plagiopholis*, *Rhabdops*, *Opisthotropis*—A degenerate assemblage, perhaps derived from the previous group

8 *Psammophis*, *Psammodynastes*—*Psammophis* is closely related to the Ethiopian *Trimerorhynchus*, *Dromophis*, *Rhamphophis* and *Mimophis*. It is an entrant into the Oriental Region from the north-west *Psammodynastes* is placed here but has no close connection

9 *Boiga*, *Tarbophis*—*Boiga* is widely distributed from Africa, through the Oriental Region to Australia *Tarbophis* in S W Asia and Africa is derived from it

10 *Dryophis* is related to the Ethiopian *Thelotornis* and *Dispholidus* *Taphrometapon*, *Psammophis* and *Dryophis* agree with one another in having a wide vacuity in front of the brain-case between the frontal and sphenoid bones, a condition, as pointed out by Boulenger (Cat III pp 152 and 185), which approaches that of the *Lacertilia*. The strongly forked condition of the ectopterygoid, seen in *Thelotornis* and *Dispholidus*, is foreshadowed in that of *Dryophis* (fig 118) and some species of *Boiga* and *Tarbophis* (figs 111 & 113) It probably has no phylogenetic significance

Genus ELAPHE.

Gonyosoma Wagler, 1828, Icon Amphib pl ix (type *viride*=*oxycephala*)

Elaphe Fitzinger, 1833, in Wagler's Descr Icon Amphib, pt 3, text to pl xxvii (type *parreysi*=*quatuorlineatus*), Stejneger, Herpet Japan, 1907, p 307, Pope, Rept China, 1936, p 227

Callopeltes Fitzinger, 1834, in Bonaparte's Icon Faun Ital ii, fol. 38 (type *leopardina*)

Celognathus Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept p 26 (type *Coluber radiatus*)

Pantherophis Fitzinger, l c s p. 25 (type *Coluber guttatus*)

Cynophis Gray, 1849, Ann. Mag. Nat Hist. (2) iv, p 246 (type *bistrigatus*=*helena*)

Alopecophis Gray, l c s p 247 (type *chalybeus*=*oxycephala*)

Plagiodon Duméril, 1853, Mem Acad Sci France, xxiii, p 447 and Dum & Bib. 1854, Erp Gen vii, p 169 (type *helena*)

Compsosoma (not of Audinet-Serville, 1835) Duméril, 1853, Mem Acad Sci France, xxiii, p 453 (type *radiata*).

Epidea Hallowell, Pr Acad Nat Sci. Philad 1860, p 488 (type *robusta*=*oxycephala*)

Phyllophis Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 295 (type *carinata*)

Allophis Peters, 1872, Mon. Akad Berlin, p. 686 (type *nigricaudus*=*janseni*)

Spaniopholis Mocquard, 1897, Bull Mus Hist Nat. Paris, iii, p 216 (type *soulei*=*carinata*).

Radonophis Vogt, 1922, Arch Natur Berlin, lxxxviii, A, 10, p. 140 (type *melli*)

Coluber, Boulenger, F. B I 1890, p 330, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 24

The above synonymy refers only to the Asiatic forms

Maxillary teeth 14 to 24*, slightly enlarged anteriorly or posteriorly; head more or less elongate, distinct from neck, eye moderate or rather large, with round pupil. Body elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed, scales* in 19 to

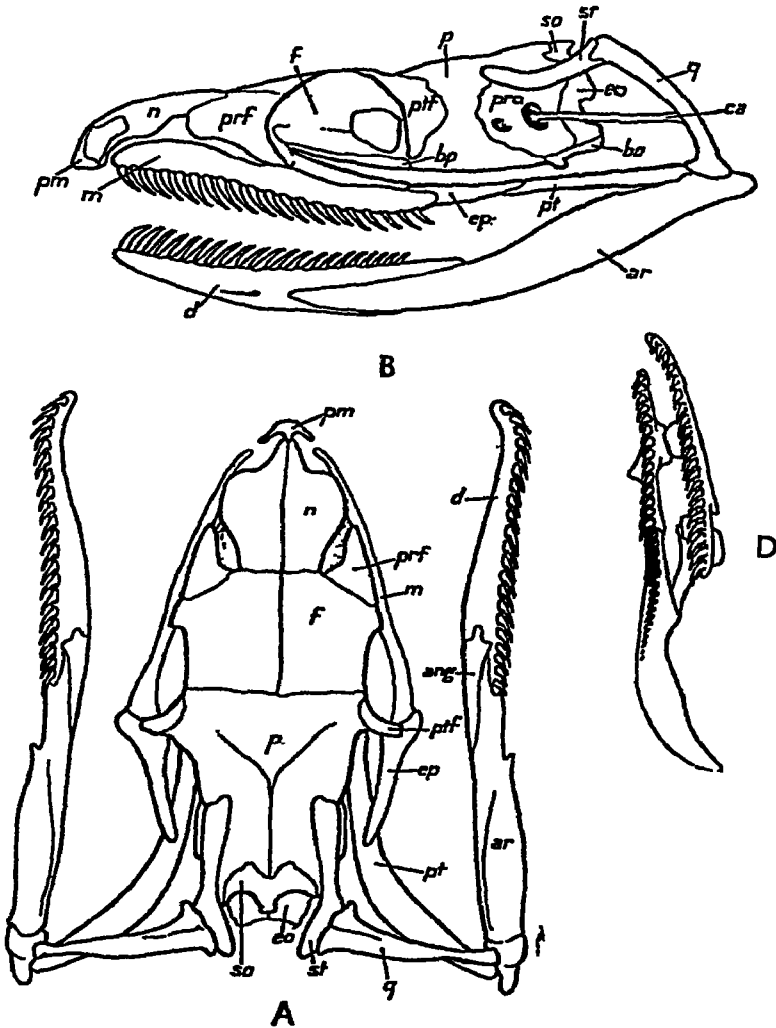


Fig 44—*Elaphe radiata* A. Dorsal B Lateral C Ventral view of skull D Palato-maxillary arch (For C, see opposite page)

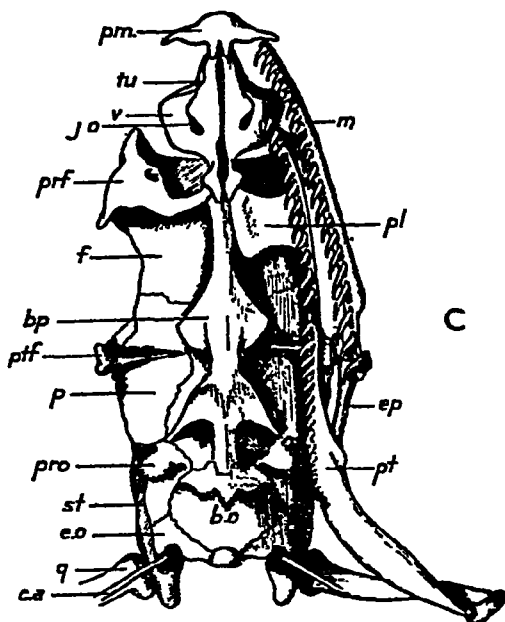
ang, angular; ar, articular, bo, basioccipital; bp, basisphenoid, ca, columella auris (or stapes); d, dentary, ep, ectopterygoid (or transpalatine); eo, exoccipital; f, frontal; jv, foramen for naso-palatine duct leading to Jacobson's organ; m, maxilla, n, nasal; p, parietal; pm, premaxilla, prf, prefrontal, pro, prootic; pt, pterygoid, ptf, postfrontal, q, quadrate, so, supraoccipital; sr, supratemporal; tu, turbinal; v, vomer

* For the species included in this work.

27 rows, with paired apical pits, smooth or keeled; ventrals rounded or angulate laterally; tail long, subcaudals paired.

Common characters unless otherwise stated —nostril between two nasals; internasals shorter than the prefrontals, two anterior temporals, five infralabials in contact with the anterior genials, which are as long as or a little longer than the posterior, the latter usually separated from one another by one or more small scales

The hemipenis is of the same type in all the species mentioned. It can be divided into three areas. Distally, it is calyculate, the cups being scalloped, with soft or spinous points; this is



succeeded by a spinose area, the spines being relatively large and few in number; they are thick and fleshy in appearance, the tip appearing as an uncovered point. The extent of the areas varies with the species; the sulcus is not forked.

Range Europe, Asia and islands of the East Indies; North America. Some 30 species in Asia.

I cannot find any morphological characters by which to distinguish *Gonyosoma* Wagler 1828, type *viride* = *oxycephala*, from the species usually placed under *Elaphe* Fitzinger 1833. *Gonyosoma* therefore should stand as the name of the genus. Its limits, however, are not yet clearly defined, and fresh work upon it will probably result in further changes in nomenclature. Rather than add to the confusion, I leave *Elaphe* for the present as it stands.

Key to the Species

- I Colour green (except in young *frenata* and sometimes in *oxycephala*)
- Scales in 19 rows, a loreal *prasina*, p 143
- Scales in 19 rows, no loreal *frenata*, p 144
- Scales in 23 (25) rows *oxycephala*, p 144
- II Colour not green
- A Loreal not very small
- a Last labial below the eye touching the temporals*, scales of the ischiadic region strongly keeled
- Scales in 19 rows, a black occipital bar *radiata*, p 146
- Scales in 19 rows, no black occipital bar *flavolineata*, p 148
- Scales in 25 to 29 rows *helenae*, p 149
- b Last labial below the eye not touching the temporals
- 1 Scales of the ischiadic region feebly keeled
- Scales in 23 rows, V 236-290, a black stripe along the side of the head *tenuura*, p 150
- Scales in 23 rows V 233-247, no black stripe on the head *hodgsoni*, p 152
- Scales in 21 rows, V 213-236 *cantoris*, p 152
- Scales in 27 rows *moellendorffi*, p 153
- 2 All the scales except the outer 1 or 2 rows, strongly keeled, scales in 23, rarely 25 or 21 rows, V 215-229 *carinata*, p 154
- 3 Scales smooth, in 19 rows *porphyracea*, p 154
- B Loreal very small or absent, belly with large quadrangular black spots
- Scales in 19 rows, a V-shaped mark on the top of the head *leonardi*, p 156
- Scales in 21 or 23 rows, head with 3 black crescentic bands *mandarina*, p 157

The following table of dental and scale counts will also assist in the identification of the species

	Max teeth	Scales	Ventrals	Caudals	Labials
<i>prasina</i>	20-23	19	191-209	91-111	9
<i>frenata</i>	20-23	19	201-235	120-145	8-9
<i>oxycephala</i>	22-23	23 (25)	236-262	130-149	9
<i>radiata</i>	20-21	19	222-250	82-108	8-9
<i>flavolineata</i>	23-24	19	193-234	89-115	9
<i>helenae</i>	18-20	25 (29)	217-265	73-100	8-11
<i>tenuura</i>	22-24	23 (25)	231-293	89-112	7-9
<i>hodgsoni</i>	21-22	23 (21)	229-247	79-92	8
<i>cantoris</i>	21-23	21	213-236	65-88	8
<i>moellendorffi</i>	23	27 or 31	268-274	97-99	9
<i>porphyracea</i>	20-24	19	190-218	52-76	8
<i>leonardi</i>	16-17	19	201-226	53-60	7
<i>mandarina</i>	14-18	21-23	210-240	62-80	7

* Insignificant as this character may seem, I have not yet found it fail; it has, I believe, taxonomic value

84 *Elaphe prasina*.

GREEN TREE RACER

Coluber prasinus Blyth, 1854, J A. S. Bengal, xxiii, p 291 (Assam, Calcutta), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 334, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus ii, 1894, p 59; Annandale, Rec Ind Mus vi, 1911, p 218, Venning, J Bombay N H S xx, 1910, p 337, Wall, ibid xix, 1909-1910, pp 346, 825 and xxix, 1923, p 620 and xxx, 1925, p 812, Parker, Ann Mag Nat Hist xv. (9) 1925, p 301, Rendahl, Ark Zool Sven Vet Akad Stockholm, xxix, 10, 1937, p 22 — *Elaphe prasina*, Smith, Bull Raffles Mus No 3, 1930, p 48, and Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 480, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 260, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 208, Shaw and others, J Darjeeling N H S xiv, 1939, p 71, Tweedie, Bull Raffles Mus No 16, 1940, p 85
Gonyosoma gramineum Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 294, pl xxiii, fig D (Khasi Hills; London)

Posterior maxillary teeth largest Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye, internasals nearly as long as the prefrontals, loreal a little longer than high, preocular often touching the frontal, 9 supralabials, 4th to 6th touching the eye, 2 anterior temporals, rarely only 1 Scales in 19 19·15 rows, faintly keeled, except the outer two or three rows, smooth in the young, V 191-209, with a strong lateral keel; anal single or divided, C. 91-111

Hemipenis extending to the 9th caudal plate, the calyces are deeply scalloped, with spinous points; the spinose area is short and the spines are not fleshy, the proximal plicate area is long

Uniform green above in the adult, the interstitial skin with black and white reticulations, the scales sometimes edged with black in the young, upper lip and lower parts greenish-white; ventrals outside the lateral keel usually white

Total length. ♂ 900, tail 235, ♀ 1110, tail 250 mm

Range From the Eastern Himalayas (Darjeeling district) through Assam, Upper Burma and Yunnan to Tong-King (Col des Nuages) and south to the Malay Peninsula

In Assam and Burma it ranges as far north as the Mishmi Hills and Sumprabum in the north of The Triangle, and south to Toungyi, S Shan States South of lat 20° it appears to be extremely rare, and its distribution is somewhat remarkable I obtained two specimens from Ban-na, Tourane, on the coast of Annam (Brit Mus Coll), and specimens have been obtained in the mountains of the Malay Peninsula at between 4,000 and 5,000 feet altitude, there is a specimen in the Indian Museum (No 7672) from the Andaman Islands. It has been recorded from all the main hill ranges in Assam and Upper Burma, but is nowhere common Its obliterate coloration and arboreal habits may explain this

85 *Elaphe frenata*.

Herpetodryas frenatus Grav, 1853, Ann Mag Nat Hist (2) xii, p 390 (Khasi Hills, London) — *Coluber frenatus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 335, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 58, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxxix, 1923, p 620, Parker, Ann Mag Nat Hist (9) xv, 1925, p 305 — *Elaphe frenata*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 244, fig head, Bourret, Serp Indo Chine, 1936, p 206

Rhadinophis melli Vogt, 1922, Arch Nat. Berlin, lxxxviii, A. 10, p 140 (Kwantung Prov, Berlin), Mell ibid lxxxviii, A 10, 1922, p. 121

Gonyosoma caldweli Schmidt, 1925, Amer. Mus Nov No 157, p 4 (Yenping, Fukien; New York)

Closely allied to *E prasina*, differing as follows Snout more projecting; prefrontals twice as long as the internasals, nasals sometimes united into a single shield, 8 or 9 supralabials, loreal united with the prefrontal

V 201-235, C 120-145, A 2

Hemipenis as in *prasina*

Colour as in *prasina*, but with a black streak along the side of the head above the labials

Total length ♂ 1500, tail 465 mm (Col des Nuages, Tong-King)

Range Assam (Khasi Hills); Tong-King (Chapa, Col des Nuages), Southern China A much rarer snake than the preceding, but not uncommon at Chapa according to Bourret

Under the name of *melli* Vogt has described from Southern China, a juvenile which is coloured quite differently from that of the adult The upper parts are grey with numerous more or less oblique black transverse bars, irregular in outline and often broken up Whether this coloration is constant for all juveniles, as Pope suggests, remains to be shown, it is not impossible, however, that it represents a distinct colour form such as occurs in *E oxycephala*, and which is discussed more fully under that name.

86 *Elaphe oxycephala*.

RED-TAILED RACER

Coluber oxycephalus Boie, 1827, Isis, p. 537 (Java, type lost), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 335, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 56, Annandale, J A S Bengal, i, 1905, p 175; Wall & Evans, J Bombay N H S xii, 1901, p 614; Wall, ibid xxxix, 1923, p 622, Smith, P. Z S 1921, p 426, Rendahl, Ark Zool Sven Vetakad Stockholm, xxx, A. 10, 1937, p 22 — *Herpetodryas oxycephalus*, Schlegel, Phys Serp. ii, 1837, p 189, pl vii. figs 8-9 — *Gonyosoma oxycephalum*, Stoliczka, J. A S Bengal, xxxix, 1870, p 193 — *Elaphe oxycephala*, Smith, Bull Raffles Mus No 3, 1930, p 50, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 204, fig. head

Gonyosoma uride Wagler, 1828, Icon. Amph pl. ix ("Brazil")

Alopecopus chalybeus Gray, 1849, Ann Mag Nat Hist. (2) iv, p. 247 (" Mauritius " . London).

Epidea robusta Hallowell, 1860, Pr. Acad Nat Sci Philad. p. 488 (Gaspar Straits, Malay Archipelago), Stejneger, Pr. U S Nat. Mus lxx (16), 1926, p. 3 (= *oxycephala*)

Coluber floweri Werner, 1925, Sitz. Ber Akad Wiss Wien, Abt 1, cxxxiv, p. 55 (Singapore, Vienna)

Coluber janseni elegans Werner, 1926, Sitz. Ber Wiss, Wien, cxxxv, 1, 7/8, p. 244 (Siam, not seen by me)

Anterior maxillary teeth largest Snout strongly projecting, nearly three times as long as the eye, loreal 2 to 3 times as long as high; 9, sometimes 10, supralabials, 5th and 6th, or 6th and 7th, touching the eye, anterior genials much



Fig 45 —Hemipenis of *Elaphe oxycephala*.

longer and larger—3 or 4 times—than the posterior Body strongly compressed, scales in 23, rarely 25 · 23, rarely 25 : 15 rows, smooth or feebly keeled V 236–262, strongly angulate laterally, C. 130–149, A 2 (for specimens from the Indo-Chinese subregion) Some or all of the vertebrae in the posterior part of the body may be enlarged

Hemipenis extending to the 21st caudal plate The calyces are large and thick-walled but not deeply scalloped, spines very large and few in number; they are succeeded proximally by a short area of much smaller and more numerous spines (fig. 45).

Green above, darkest on the head, tail light chestnut or buffish red, the two colours meet abruptly at the vent. On the anterior half of the body the scales may be edged with black, an indistinct blackish stripe along the side of the head immediately above the labials, light greenish-yellow below.

Total length ♂ 1880, tail 480; ♀ 2100, tail 500 mm

Range Tenasserim (Amherst district), Siam (Kanburi, Raheng district, Chieng-Sen in the extreme North), Cambodia and Cochinchina (*vide* Tirant), S Annam (Daban), the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Malay Peninsula and East Indian Islands. I do not know of any reliable evidence to show that this snake occurs in Upper Burma or anywhere north of the localities given here.

Under the name of *Coluber floweri*, Werner has described a distinct colour form. This variety is never green but has the head and body above of a light or dark buff, marked all over with scattered, irregular blotches of dark brown or black, the belly is whitish, uniform, or with dark markings similar to those upon the upper parts, the tail, which is paler and uniform in colour, is abruptly marked off from the body as in the typical form. This colour pattern is obviously produced by an extension throughout the body of the colour of the tail of the typical form, with the addition of the dark markings. It inhabits the Malay Peninsula as far north as Trang.

A thoroughly arboreal snake, extremely active, and swift in its movements, the few that I have handled never became tame and were always ready to bite at the slightest provocation. According to Stoliczka it is not uncommon in the forests of the Andaman Islands and is found generally on bushes near brackish-water creeks.

87 *Elaphe radiata*.

COPPERHEAD

Russell, Ind Serp II 1801, pl. xlii p. 44 (Java)

Coluber radiatus Schlegel, 1837 Phys Serp II, p. 135, pl. v, figs 5 & 6 (Java. Leiden), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p. 333, and Cat Serp Brit Mus II 1894 p. 61 Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, I, 1914, p. 93, pl. Wall, J Bombay N H S XIX, 1910, p. 825 and xliii, 1914 p. 206, fig. head, and xlix, 1923, p. 621—*Cœlognathus radiatus*, Cochian, Proc U S Nat Mus LXVII 1930, p. 6—*Elaphe radiata*, Pope Rept China, 1936, p. 261, fig. head, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p. 211, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S XIV, 1939, p. 73.

Coluber quadrfasciatus Cantor, P Z S 1839, p. 51 (Assam col sketch in Bodleian Library)

Tropidonotus quinque Cantor, l c s p. 54 (Mergui, Tenasserim, London col sketch in Bodleian Library)

Posterior maxillary teeth largest. Snout twice as long as

the eye, loreal a little longer than high; 9, rarely only 8, supralabials, 4th to 6th touching the eye, 6th in contact with the temporal. Scales in 21 or 19 · 19 · 17 rows, more or less distinctly keeled, those of the ischiadic region strongly keeled. V. 222-250, strongly angulate laterally; C 82-108; A 1

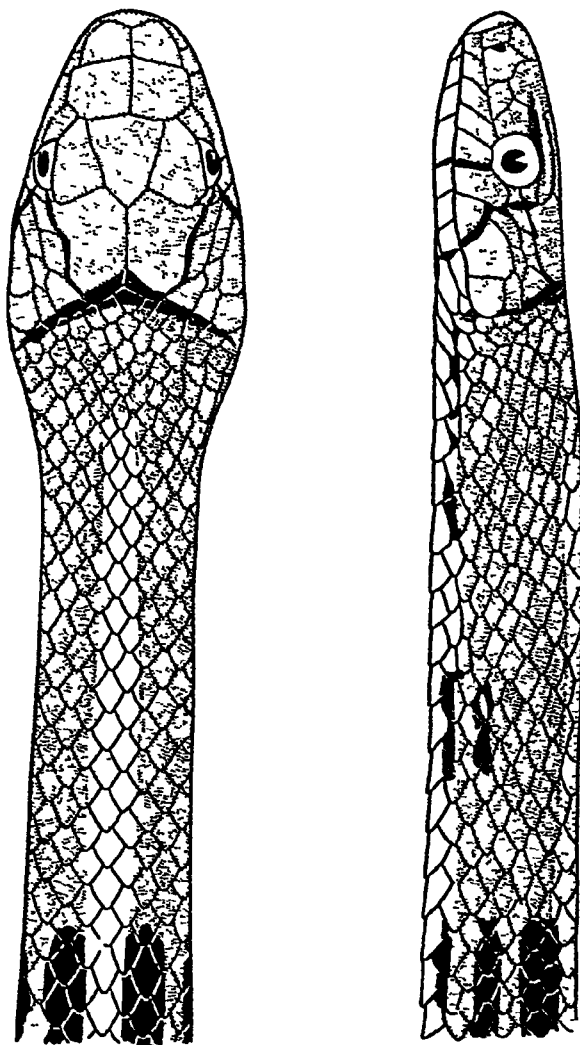


Fig 46 — *Elaphe radiata* (B.M 94 5 21 1)

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate; the calyces are deeply scalloped, with blunt spines, the spinose area is extensive and is succeeded proximally by a short one of small stout spines

Above greyish-brown, fawn or yellowish-brown, sometimes with a reddish or greenish tinge in life, with four black stripes on the anterior half or two-thirds of the body, commencing a short distance behind the neck, the upper pair, on either side of the vertebral line, are broad, the outer pair on scale rows 3 are much narrower and are usually broken into a series of elongated spots on the anterior part of the body, bordering the ventrals there may or may not be a 3rd series of still smaller spots, lower parts yellowish, uniform, or powdered with grey, or almost entirely grey, head copper-brown, a black bar across the occiput and three black streaks radiating from below and behind the eye

Total length ♂ 1890, tail 370, ♀ 1795, tail 350 mm. (♂ 2135 mm, Wall)

Range From Orissa (Cuttack) and the Eastern Himalayas (Sikkim) to Southern China, and through the whole of the Indo-Chinese subregion to the Malay Archipelago

E. radiata is not uncommon in Southern Burma, Siam, and French Indo-China, it is found chiefly in the plains, inhabiting the open country and fields, and gardens in the vicinity of villages. It is diurnal in its habits and feeds chiefly upon small mammals. It possesses in a marked degree the power of expanding, in a vertical direction, the throat and anterior part of the body. When cornered, it adopts a menacing attitude, throwing the fore-part of its body into a series of loops and opening the mouth widely. Under these conditions it is extremely handsome, the jet black bars contrasting vividly with the pale fawn of the rest of the body. One that I kept never grew accustomed to being handled, and after four months was nearly as wild and fierce as on the day it was captured. Young ones that I have kept were more gentle and soon became tame.

From 5 to 12 eggs are laid at a time

88 *Elaphe flavolineata*.

Coluber flavolineata Schlegel, 1837, Phys Serp II, p 14, (Java), Stejneger, Nyt Mag Naturvid Kristiana, IX, 1922 (2) p 78

Coluber melanurus (non Shaw, 1802) Schlegel, 1837, Phys Serp II, p 141, pl v, figs (Java), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 334, and Cat Sn Brit Mus II, 1894, p 60, Annandale, J A S. Bengal (n.s.), I, 1905, p 173, Wall, J Bombay N H S XXII, 1923, p 261, Smith, Bull Raffles Mus No 3, 1930, p 48

Posterior maxillary teeth largest. Snout twice as long as the eye, loreal a little longer than high, 9 supralabials, 4th to 6th touching the eye, 6th in contact with the temporal. Scales in 21 or 19-19-17 rows, more or less distinctly keeled, those of the ischiadic region strongly keeled, V 193-234, strongly angulate laterally, C 89-115, A 1

Hemipenis extending to the 14th caudal plate, the calyculate area occupies more than half the organ, distally the calyces are small and uniform in size, they gradually become larger and more elongate as they approach the spinose area, this latter is relatively short, and the spines are few in number, they terminate in a series of small spines

Pale brown anteriorly, with a yellow, black-edged vertebral stripe which becomes gradually more and more indistinct towards the hinder part of the body, this, like the tail, is darker brown or black, a series of black spots on each side of the anterior part of the body, or ocelli with bright yellow centres well marked in the young, a black streak below the eye, an oblique one from the eye to the angle of the mouth, another from the temple to the neck

Total length ♂ 1560, tail 360 mm

Range A Malayan species that just reaches the Indo-Chinese region in Tenasserim, it is recorded from the Andaman Islands. Oviparous, the eggs measuring approximately 50 by 20 mm in size

The *Coluber melanurus* of Schlegel, 1837, is antedated by the *Coluber melanurus* of Shaw, 1802, which is a species of *Callophis*

89 *Elaphe helena*.

TRINKET SNAKE

Russell, 1796, Ind Serp 1, p 37, pl 32 (Vizagapatam)

Coluber helena Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vi, p 277 (based on Russell's plate), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 331, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 11, 1894, p 36, Wall, J Bombay N H S xvi, 1905, p 394, and xix, 1909, p 757, and xxii, 1913, p 22, col pl, and xvi, 1919, p 566, and xxx, 1923, p 622, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 197, and Spol Zeyl xii, 1924, p 78, figs, Fraser, J Bombay N H S xxxix, 1937, p 478 — *Elaphe helena*, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiv, 1939, p 78

Cynophis bistriatus Gray, 1849, Ann Mag Nat Hist (2) iv, p 246 (Ceylon, London)

Herpetodryas malabaricus Jerdon, 1851, J A S Bengal, xlii p 530 (Annamallays, London)

Herpetodryas malabaricus var *carinata* Müller, 1878, Verh Nat Ges Basel, vi, p 671 (Bangalore, Basel)

Anterior maxillary teeth largest. Snout twice as long as the eye, prefrontals twice, or nearly twice, as long as the internasals, loreal a little longer than high, 9 or 10, sometimes 8 or 11, supralabials, 5th and 6th, or 5th to 7th, touching the eye, the 6th or 7th in contact with the temporals. Scales in 23 or 25 25 or 27 (rarely 29) 21 or 19 rows, more or less distinctly keeled on the posterior part of the body and tail. V. 217–265, angulate laterally, C 73–100, A 1

Hemipenis extending to the 27th caudal plate, the distal

half of the organ is spinose, the spines being relatively small and arranged in longitudinal series, this area changes abruptly into one with very large spines, there are from 6 to 8 of them in lateral series, the largest ones being on either side of the sulcus (specimen from Madras. B M Coll)

Light or dark brown above with dark brown or black cross-bars containing white ocelli, these are most conspicuous anteriorly, and on the sides more than on the back, this pattern gradually disappears on the under-part of the body, which is brown above with a broad dark stripe on each side, a black vertical streak below the eye, and an oblique one behind it, lower parts yellowish, uniform or with a more or less distinct festooned marking on each side. This marking, according to Wall, is confined to specimens from Western India, south of Bombay.

Two distinct forms of colour pattern can be found on the neck. I Two longitudinal black stripes, parallel with one another or converging posteriorly. This is the commonest form and occurs throughout the whole range of the species. II No black stripes but a white black-edged collar interrupted on the mid-line. Apparently restricted to the Western Ghats.

Total length ♀ 1350, tail 290, ♂ 900, tail 200 mm.

Range Ceylon, Peninsular India to Sind in the North-West, the Himalayas (Almora district, Jalpaiguri district), Assam (Naga Hills).

Wall (1913 and 1921) has given good accounts of this well-known Indian snake, and his colour plate is excellent. All those who have had experience of it agree that it is an extremely active creature with a vicious temper. Its main food consists of mammals, but lizards, frogs and snakes have been recorded as part of its fare. When excited, it will assume an attitude of defence, similar to that adopted by *E. radiata*. As regards its breeding habits, Wall (1924) records finding eggs in June, the embryos well advanced in development.

90 *Elaphe tæniura*.

STRIPED RACER

Elaphus tæniurus Cope, 1861, Proc Acad Nat Sci Philad xii, p 565 (Ningpo and Siam) — *Coluber tæniurus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 333, and Cat. Sn Brit Mus ii 1894, p 47, and Rept Malay Peninsula, 1912, p 142, Annandale, Rec Ind Mus viii, 1912, p 48, and J A S Bengal, i, 1913, p 409. Venning, J Bombay N H S xv, 1910, p 338. Wall, ibid xix, 1909, p 346, and xxiv 1923, p 62 — *Elaphe tæniurus*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 271, fig head, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 195, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xxxvii, 1935, p 239, and xli, 1940, p 480. Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiv, 1939, p 76.

- Coluber nuthalli* Theobald, 1868, Cat Rept Mus Asiat Soc p 51, and Cat Rept Brit India, 1876, p 164 (Pegu, Burma, Calcutta), Slater, J A S Bengal, ix, 2, 1891, p 239 (= *tenuis*)
- Elaphis yunnanensis* Anderson, 1879, Anat Zool Res Yunnan, p 813 (Tengyueh, Yunnan, Calcutta and London)
- Elaphis grabowskyi* Fischer, 1885, Arch Nat Berlin, p 59, pl iv, fig 3 (Borneo, London) — *Elaphe tenuis grabowskyi*, Smith, Bull. Raffles Mus No 3, 1930, p 49
- Coluber vaillanti* Mocquard, 1905, Bull Mus Hist Nat Paris, xi, p 76 (Cao-bang, Tong-king, Paris)
- Coluber tenuis* var *ridleyi* Butler, 1899, J Bombay N H S xii, p 426 (Batu Caves, Kuala Lumpur, Malay Peninsula), Ridley, 'The Times,' Nov 10, 1937
- Coluber tenuis pallidus* Rendahl, 1937, Ark Zool K Sven Vet Akad Stockholm, xxix, A, p 19 (Sukli, Tenasserim)

Anterior maxillary teeth largest Snout $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as the eye, prefrontals twice or nearly twice as long as the internasals, loreal a little longer than, sometimes nearly twice as long as, high. 7 to 9 supralabials, 2 or 3, sometimes only one, touching the eye a presubocular usually present Scales in 23.23 19 rows in 22 examples from the Indo-Chinese region north of lat 20° in 25 25.19 rows in examples from Siam and Tenasserim, smooth or feebly keeled V 231-263, C 89-112, north of lat 20° ; V 276-293, C 91-103 from Siam, strongly angulate laterally, A 2 In two examples from Pangnamdim the anterior subcaudals are single.

Pope (1935, p 272) has shown how erratic and geographically inconsistent the scale-counts of this species can be The Chinese form has usually 25 scales at mid-body, that from the Malay Peninsula always 25 at mid-body*, while further south in the Malay Archipelago it may rise to 27. The great diversity in the ventral counts in specimens from the Indo-Chinese region alone is shown here

Hemipenis extending to the 15th caudal plate The calcutate area occupies nearly half the organ the spines are short and are enclosed in a voluminous sheath They are succeeded proximally by an area of longitudinally plicate folds the transition between each area is abrupt

Light greyish or brownish above, the head and neck uniform except for a black stripe on each side of the head broadest behind the eye, anterior part of the back with a vertebral series of large black butterfly-shaped spots, and smaller diamond-shaped ones on the sides, in the young, which in later life break up to form a wide open network; posterior part of back with a pale grey vertebral stripe, 3 or 4 scales wide, and a broad black stripe on each side, 5 or 6 scales wide; this may or may not be interrupted by light spots or transverse bars as far as the vent; lower parts uniform yellowish (spotted

* As far as my own observations go

with black in specimens from Upper Burma and S E Tibet), outer margins of the ventrals with black spots, which on the hinder part of the body and tail unite to form a stripe, it is separated by a white stripe from the dark lateral one.

Total length. ♂ 1600, tail 300, ♀ 1980, tail 340 mm

Range in the Indo-Chinese region Darjeeling, Burma (Abor country, Rong-to Valley north of Rima, Pangnamdim, north of Fort Hertz, Chin Hills, Pakkoku district), Tenasserim (Sukh), Tong-King, Hong Kong; Siam (Muang Fang in the north, Hinlap in the Dong Rek Mts)

The pale form of this snake, var *ridleyi*, first described from the Batu Caves of the Malay Peninsula, no doubt owes its lack of coloration to the environment in which it lives. It feeds upon bats.

91 *Elaphe hodgsoni*.

Spilotes hodgsoni Günther, 1860, P Z S p 156, pl 27 (Nepal, London).—*Coluber hodgsoni*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 332, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 35, Wall, J Bombay N. H S xxx, 1923, p 622.—*Elaphe hodgsoni*, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiv, 1939, p 75

Anterior maxillary teeth largest. Snout $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as the eye; prefrontals twice or nearly twice as long as the internasals, loreal a little longer than high, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, a presubocular, often united with the 3rd labial. Scales in 21 or 23 23 17 rows, smooth or feebly keeled. V. 229–247, strongly angulate laterally, C 79–92; A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 13th caudal plate, otherwise as in *tsamura*

Olive-brown above, many of the scales edged with black, yellowish below, the outer margins of the ventrals edged with black.

Total length ♂ 1500, tail 310, ♀ 1250, tail 255 mm

Range The Himalayas, from Ladak and Kashmir (Srinagar) to Sikkim; Assam (Garo Hills)

92 *Elaphe cantoris*.

Coluber reticularis (non Daudin 1803) Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 51 (Cherrapunji, Assam, col sketch in Bodleian Library). Boulenger, F. B I 1890, p 332

Coluber cantoris Boulenger, 1894, Cat Sn Brit. Mus ii, p 35, Wall, J Bombay N H S xix, 1909–10, pp 345, 898, and xxx, 1923, p 621.—*Elaphe cantoris*, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiv, 1939, p 74, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xln, 1940, p 480

Anterior maxillary teeth largest. Snout 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as the eye, loreal a little longer than high, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th, or 3rd to 5th, touching the eye; a

presubocular usually present Scales in 19 or 21. 21 17 rows, smooth or feebly keeled V 213-236, angulate laterally ; A. usually single , C 65-88

Hemipenis extending to the 17th caudal plate ; characters as in *radiata* but the calyculate area more extensive.

Anterior half of the body grey, the interstitial skin and margins of the scales white, and with large squarish black spots, the vertebral series usually united to form broad transverse bars , posterior part of body and tail olive-brown to blackish, with irregular light cross-bars (reddish-brown in life) expanding on the vertebral line , lower parts yellowish, pink on the tail, spotted with brown or black or nearly entirely dark brown or black , head above uniform brown or greyish The colour pattern is very distinct in the young and half-grown, but may disappear almost entirely in old individuals

Total length ♂ 1960, tail 335 mm (not quite complete)

Range. The Eastern Himalayas (Sikkim , Darjeeling district), Assam (Garo and Khasi Hills), Upper Burma (Pangnamdim, north of the Triangle)

Common, according to Wall, in the neighbourhood of Darjeeling above 5,000 feet altitude

93. *Elaphe moellendorffi*.

Cynophis moellendorffi Boettger, 1886, Zool Anz Jena, xi, p 520 (Kwangtung Prov , China , Frankfurt)—*Coluber moellendorffi*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus , ii, 1894, p 56—*Elaphe moellendorffi*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 250, pl x ; Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 202

Elaphe moellendorffi tonkinensis Bourret, 1934, Bull Gen Instr Pub , Hanoi, April, p 11, and Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 203 (Tong-King , Paris)

Snout three times as long as the eye , prefrontals twice as long as the internasals , loreal twice as long as high ; 9 or 10 supralabials, 5th and 6th touching the eye , a presubocular present or absent Scales in 27 27 or 31 · 23 rows, more or less distinctly keeled V 268-274, strongly angulate laterally , C 97-99 , A 2

" The hemipenis is spinous proximally, calyculate distally, the calyculate area somewhat the more extensive and set off abruptly from the spinous section , the spines are numerous and uniform in size, but the calyces become much smaller towards the end of the organ , their edges are scalloped ; distally the sulcus lies deep in a distinctly raised calyculate ridge, while a second longitudinal ridge parallels the one in which the sulcus is imbedded, but is evident only along the distal third of the organ " (Pope, 1935)

Greyish above with a dorsal series of large dark grey, black-edged hexagonal or squarish spots, 28 to 32 in number, and a lateral series of alternating smaller ones ; yellowish

below, largely chequered with black, tail with more or less complete whitish annuli (? pink in life), head uniform grey above

Total length ♂ 1600, tail 595 mm

Range Tong-King (Cai Kim*), Southern China

Bourret's *tonkinensis* is based on two specimens which have 31 scale-rows at mid-body. Their exact provenance in Tong-King is not known and he remarks of them (p 204) "Je ne sais s'il s'agit d'une variété locale". The specimen from Cai Kim, said to be from Tong-King, in the British Museum, and two others in Paris from Tong-King, have only 27 scale-rows at mid-body

94 *Elaphe carinata*.

Phyllophus carinata Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 298, pl XXI (China, London)—*Elaphe carinata*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 233, pl XLII, B and text-fig

Elaphe carinata ornithophaga Bourret, 1936, Serp Indo Chine, p 201, fig head (Chapa, Tong-King, not seen by me)

Coluber phyllophus Boulenger, 1891, Ann Mag Nat Hist (6) vii, p 280 (China, London), and Cat. Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 55

Bourret records a specimen of this snake, known previously from Yunnan and China, from Chapa, Tong-King. It differs from the typical form in having a scale formula of 25 25 19 . V 229, C 95 and slightly in coloration

95 *Elaphe porphyracea*.

Coluber porphyraceus Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 51 (Mishmi Hills, Abor country, col sketch in Bodleian Library), Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 239, pl xx, fig head, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 34, Wall, J Bombay N H S xiii, 1908, p 326, and xix, 1909-10, pp 345, 827, and xxix, 1923, p 620, and xxx, 1925, p 812, Rendahl, Ark Zool K Sven Vet Akad Stockholm, xxix, A 1937, p 16—*Ablates porphyraceus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 308, Wall & Evans, J Bombay N H S xiii, 1901, p 611, Venning, ibid xx, 1910, p 137—*Elaphe porphyracea*, Smith, Bull Raffles Mus No 3, 1930, p 48, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 253, fig head, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 187, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiv, 1939, p 72

Elaphe porphyracea porphyracea Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 480

Coronella callicephalus Gray 1853, Ann Mag Nat. Hist (2) xii, p 390 (Khasi Hills, London)

Elaphe porphyracea pulchra Schmidt, 1925, Amer Mus Nov No 175, p 3 (north of Yunnan-fu, New York)

Psammophis nigrofasciatus Cantor, l c s p 63 ("Singapore", London)—*Elaphe porphyracea nigrofasciata*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 257, Gressitt, Pekin Nat Hist Bull xv, 1941, p 190

* Cai=river

Elaphe porphyracea hainana Mell, 1929, Lingnan Sci Journ viii, p 209 (Hainan).

Elaphe porphyracea longilineata Bourret, 1934, Bull Gen Instr Pub, Hanoi, Dec p 6, and Serp Indo-Chine 1936, p 191 (Tong-King - Paris)

Anterior maxillary teeth largest Snout $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as long

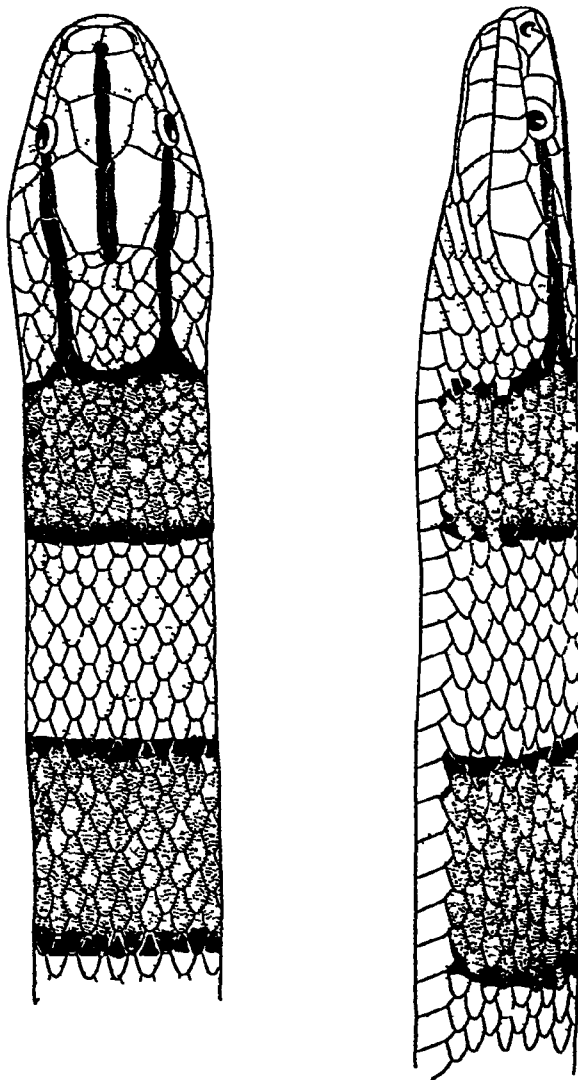


Fig 47 — *Elaphe porphyracea*

as the eye, loreal a little longer than high; 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye. Scales in 19 19 17 or 15 rows, smooth V 190-218, not angulate laterally, C 52-76. A 2.

Hemipenis to the 8th caudal plate It is spinose throughout, the spines gradually increasing in size as they approach the base of the organ, at the extreme base there are a few very large ones, extending the whole length of the organ on either side of the sulcus are two prominent folds, they are covered with spines and terminate at the tip in a partly free end which lies in a small recess or pocket This description of the hemipenis drawn up from a Burmese example, forma *typica*, differs considerably from that given by Pope taken from a Chinese specimen (*p nigrofasciata*) I have checked up my description with a specimen of the latter but cannot find that it differs in any material respect

Total length ♂ 900, tail 140, ♀ 1100, tail 175 mm

There are two races

I *Elaphe porphyracea porphyracea*

Pale to deep reddish-brown above, with broad dark-brown, black-edged cross-bars (14 to 16+3 to 4 in number) which narrow on the sides of the body In the young they are entirely black, and are edged with white, on the hinder part of the body and tail they are often obliquely placed and may be reduced to large spots, two black, parallel, dorso-lateral lines usually present on the hinder part of the body and tail, a black stripe down the middle of the head and another on each side, usually connecting with the first transverse mark on the neck, lower parts uniform yellowish

Range Eastern Himalayas (Sikkim, Darjeeling district), Assam (Abor country, Sadiya, Garo and Khasi Hills), Burma (Nam-Tamai Valley, north of Fort Hertz, Mogok, Toungyi, Chin Hills), Yunnan, W China, N Siam (Doi Sutep and Doi Ang-Ka), the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra

II *Elaphe porphyracea nigrofasciata*

Differs in having fewer cross-bars (9-12), and in that the black dorso-lateral lines usually extend the whole length of the body

Range Tong-King, S China, Hainan, Lan-tas I, near Hong Kong

96 *Elaphe leonardi*.

Coluber leonardi Wall, 1921, J Bombay N H S xxviii, p 43, pl and correction slip (Sinlum Kaba, Upper Burma, London), and xxix, 1923, pp 467, 621, Rendahl, Ark Zool K Sven Vet Akad Stockholm, xxix A, 1937, p 19 — *Elaphe leonardi*, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 191
Elaphe leonardi leonardi, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xli, 1940, p 481
Elaphe leonardi chapaensis Bourret 1934, Bull Gen Instr Pub Hanoi, March, p 7 (Chapa Tong-King, Paris) and Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 192, fig head

Anterior maxillary teeth largest, snout twice as long as the eye no loreal, the posterior nasal in contact with the

preocular, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye. 1 or 2 anterior temporals. Scales in 19 19 17 rows, smooth. V. 201-226, feebly angulate laterally. C 53-60; A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate. the extreme tip is calyculate, the rest of the organ spinose, the spines being arranged in more or less distinct longitudinal series, distally they are small, they gradually increase in size and proximally are few in number and very large

Two races can be distinguished

I *Elaphe leonardi leonardi*

One anterior temporal. Olive-brown above, the scales finely edged with black, and with a series of large, buff, black-edged cross-bars or transversely placed spots, they are irregular in outline and are more or less confluent with smaller, similarly coloured spots on the sides of the body. yellowish below, with large black spots, head light-brown or buff in the young, darker in the adult, with a large, elongated, black, V- or U-shaped mark on the vertex starting on the prefrontal shields, its apex at the nape. a dark vertical stripe below the eye, another behind it, and two more that pass backwards from the eye and unite with the markings on the neck

Total length: ♂ 810, tail 125 mm

Range Upper Burma. Patsarlamdan, long 98° 10", lat 27° 38"; Smlun Kaba, Kachin Hills, Kambaiti. Six specimens are known

II *Elaphe leonardi chapaensis*

Usually 2 anterior temporals. The dorsal spots are replaced by transverse or obliquely placed cross-bars which expand on the sides of the body where they may enclose a black spot

Bourret gives a lower caudal count (40 to 55) for this form, in the two examples examined by me in Paris, the tails are incomplete

Range Chapa, Tong-King.

97 *Elaphe mandarina*.

MANDARIN SNAKE

Coluber mandarina Cantor, 1840, Zool Chusan, p 483 pl xii and Ann Mag Nat Hist ix, 1842, p 483 (Chusan I. London), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894 p 42. Parker, Ann Mag Nat Hist xv (9) 1925, p 304 — *Elaphe mandarina*, Pope, Rept China 1935, p 246, pl x, Bourret Serp Indo-Chine 1936 p 194, fig, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xxxvii, 1935, p 239 and xlii, 1940, p 481

Ablabes pavo Annandale, 1912, Rec Ind Mus viii, p 47 pl v, fig 3 (Upper Rotung, Abor country Calcutta), Prater J Bombay N H S xxi, 1919, p 683 — *Coluber pavo*, Wall, ibid. p 865, and xxix, 1923, p 621

Holarchus roulei Angel & Bourret, 1933, Bull Soc Zool Fr lviii, p 135 (Chapa, Tong-King, Paris)

Posterior maxillary teeth largest Snout twice as long as the eye, loreal very small or absent, united with the prefrontal, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 1 or 2 anterior temporals Scales in 23 23 or 21 19 or 17 rows, smooth V 210-240, feebly angulate laterally, C 62-80, A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 14th caudal plate, the calyculate area occupies about half the organ, the cups being deeply scalloped, this area merges gradually into a spinose one, the basal spines being few in number and very large, at the extreme tip of the organ are two small recesses one of which is occupied by a papilla-like process similar to that which is found in *porphyracea*

Light-brown or greyish above with a series of large, oval or rounded yellow spots, broadly edged with black, there are 22 to 25 on the body in specimens from Tong-King, 29 or 30 in specimens from Upper Burma, on the tail the central parts of the spots may disappear and be replaced by black annuli, yellowish below, with large black quadrangular spots which unite or alternate with one another, head above with black markings, namely, a band across the snout, a crescentic mark on the top of the head passing through the eye where it divides into two, and a V-shaped mark, its apex on the frontal shield and passing back on the side of the head behind the mouth to the throat

I have no hesitation in uniting *Ablabes pavo* with this species

Total length: ♂ 1600, tail 300 mm.

Range Upper Burma (Abor country, Nam-Tamai Valley), Tong-King (Fan-Si-Pan Mts, Col des Nuages), Southern China

According to Bourret it is not rare at Chapa and has been found also at other places in the mountains of Tong-King

Genus PTYAS.

RAT SNAKES

Ptyas Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept p 26 (type *Coluber blumenbachii*), Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 616 (in part), Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 216
Zamenis, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 324, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 379 (in part)

Maxillary teeth 20 to 28, forming a continuous series, increasing in size posteriorly Head elongate, distinct from neck, eye large, with round pupil, normally two or three loreal shields; a presubocular Body elongate, cylindrical, scales in 17 (18) or 15 (16) rows at mid-body, with a picalpits, tail long, subcaudals paired

Common characters, unless otherwise stated — Loreal region concave, nostril large, between two nasals; internasals shorter than the prefrontals; 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, temporals 2+2,

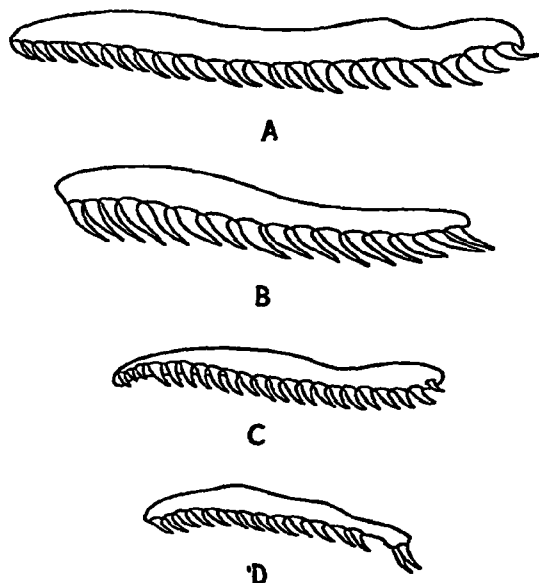


Fig. 48 —Maxillary bones of A *Ptyas mucosus*; B *Coluber diadema*, C *Ophedrys major*, D *Coluber fasciolatus*

posterior genuals longer than the anterior, in contact with one another anteriorly, anal divided A single loreal shield has been recorded occasionally in both species

Range The Oriental Region

Key to the Species.

Scales in 17 or 16 rows at mid-body, V 190–213 *mucosus*, p 159
Scales in 15 rows at mid-body, V 160–187 . . . *korros*, p 162

98. *Ptyas mucosus*.

DHAMAN; RAT SNAKE.

Coluber mucosus, Linn Mus Ad Frid 1, p 37, pl 23, and Syst Nat Ed. 10, 1758, p 226 (India. Stockholm), Russell, Ind Serp. 1, 1796, p 40, pl 34, Andersson, K Sven Vet-Akad Handl Stockholm, xxiv, 1899, iv (6) p 25—*Ptyas mucosus*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 249, Wall, Sn. Ceylon, 1921, p 172, and J Bombay N H S xxxix, 1923, p. 617, Prater, ibid xxx, (1) 1924, p 169, Subrahmaniam, ibid xxxvii, 1934, p 743, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 220; Fraser, J Bombay N H S xxxix, 1937, p 475, Shaw & others, J. Darjeeling N H S xiv, 1939, p 68—*Zamenis mucosus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 324, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 385, Ferguson, J Bombay

N H S x, 1895, p 71, Beadon, *ibid* xv, 1910, p 228, Millard, *ibid* xvii, 1906, p 245 Venning, *ibid* xv, 1910, p 439, Millett, *ibid* xix, 1909, p 758, Fenton, *ibid* xix, 1910, p 1002, Wall, *ibid* xii, 1906-7, p 259, col pl and p 1033, fig, and xviii, 1907, p 113, and xix, 1909, p 622, and xxi, 1911, p 134, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, ii, 1916, p 79, McCann, J Bombay N H S xxxviii, 1935, p 409, Bourret, Serp Indo Chine, 1936, p 178—*Zaocys mucosus*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxiii, 1914, p 108, and xxvi, 1919, p 366

Coluber blumenbachii Meriem, 1820, Tent Syst Amphib p 119 (Bengal)

Coluber dhumna Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 51 (Bengal & Burma, col sketch in Bodleian Library)

Leptophis trifrenatus Hallowell, 1860, Pr Acad Nat Sci Philad p 303 (Hong-kong)

Maxillary teeth 20 to 25 Scales in 17, 18 or 19 17 or 16 14 rows, smooth on the median rows more or less distinctly keeled V 190-213, sometimes with an obtuse lateral keel, C 100-146, A 2 The vertebrals may or may not be slightly enlarged

Hemipenis extending to the 10th-12th caudal plate, not forked The distal one-third is flounced, the folds at the tip being much finer than those proximally, this area is followed by one of almost equal length in which the flounces are much thicker walled and joined together in part to form calyces, it is succeeded abruptly by a spinose portion, the spines being thick and fleshy, and terminating in a spicule, there are 11 or 12 in lateral series, at the base of the organ are two very large spines In addition the distal one-half or one-third is incompletely divided in two by invaginations of the external wall of the organ The connection between them is maintained by connective tissue and is intimately connected with the sulcus In general character the structure is that of *Zaocys carinatus* but the modifications are less developed

Olive-green, -brown, -yellowish or -greyish above, with irregular, but strongly marked black cross-bars on the posterior half of the body, yellowish-white below, the posterior ventrals (sometimes all the ventrals) and subcaudals edged with black, lips and throat whitish, the scales edged with black The young when born are pale olivaceous, with more or less distinct light, dark-edged cross-bars on the anterior half of the body. In specimens from India the cross-bars on the posterior part of the body are set closer to one another and may form a reticulate pattern In occasional individuals (Chin Hills, Toungyi, Mandalay, Andamans) the dark markings on the body are almost entirely absent, both above and on the belly. Wall (1909) records that many specimens from Upper Assam are of a very dark colour, being sepia or almost black, the dark markings in consequence being much obscured

Total length ♂ 2250, tail 550, ♀ 1800, tail 450 mm

Many larger individuals have been recorded Millard (1906) mentions a giant that measured 11 ft 9 in in-length As

pointed out by Wall, males in general grow to a larger size than females.

Range Ceylon; the whole of India to Baluchistan, Afghanistan, Turkestan and Chitral in the north-west, Kashmir and the Himalayas, the whole of Indo-China as far north as the Abor country, Yunnan and Southern China, Hainan, the Andaman Islands. I am unable to find any evidence that it occurs in Peninsular Siam or Tenasserim, south of lat 13° N, or in the Malay Peninsula, but De Rooy (Rept Indo-Austral Arch 11, 1917, p 98) records it from Java and Sumatra.

The Dhaman or Common Rat Snake is widely distributed throughout the whole of India and Indo-China. Wall (1906

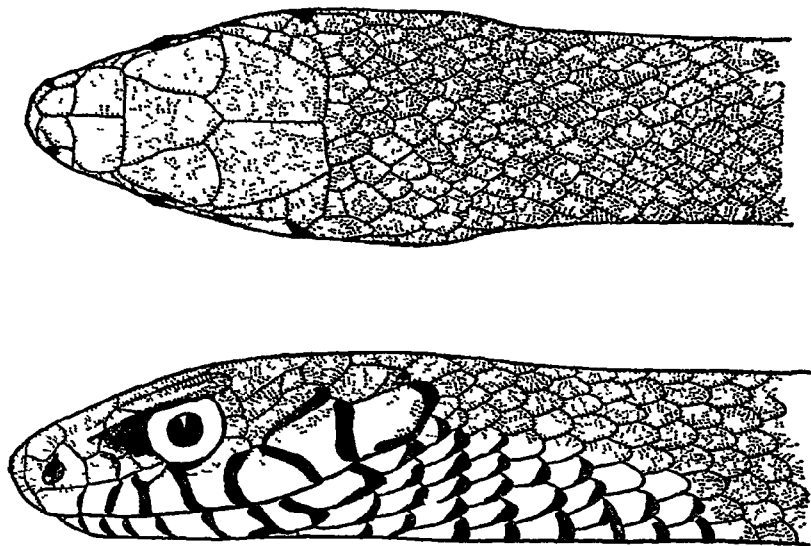


Fig 49 — *Ptyas mucosus* (B.M 1910 9 6 8)

and 1921) has given good accounts of the habits of this snake, and my own observations in Siam confirm his remarks. It is mainly an inhabitant of the plains, frequenting the open country, often in the vicinity of human habitations. It is a good climber, and is often found in trees at considerable heights. It is diurnal in its habits, and timid and excitable in disposition, but when cornered can put up a good fight, raising the forebody and throwing it into one or more curves, at the same time inflating the throat. Wall states that at this time it will give vent to a peculiar sound, something like the noise produced by a cat at bay. I have not observed it, although I have seen many individuals. Those that I have kept were always wild and excitable and never grew accustomed to being handled.

In spite of its name, its main food is not rats, but frogs and toads, but it is not particular in its choice of food, and is prepared to devour almost anything that comes its way. Lizards of all kinds, and occasionally snakes, form part of its diet. In the trees it captures birds and their young, and there is a record of its having attacked a full-grown fowl. It does not constrict, but overcomes such prey as mammals and birds by holding them down. Millard (in Wall, 1906) states "One of these (Rat Snakes) which we were keeping in the same cage as our Python caught a rat, which was put in for food, by the tail. The rat turned and bit the Dhaman severely, and the Dhaman killed it by holding on to the tail and pressing the rat against the body of the Python and the floor of the cage. Severe pressure must have been brought to bear as the rat, a full sized one, was dead in 3 or 4 minutes." Ferguson (1910) commenting on its gluttony, says that its favourite food is a medium-sized frog, of which a fair-sized snake will eat about 22 at a meal. This will last it a week.

Mating takes place in the hot weather, May and June, eggs, 6 to 14 in number, are deposited in August and September, the young emerge between the end of September and December. The eggs measure $45-50 \times 30-40$ mm in size, and the young when born 370-380 mm in total length.

The Dhaman is sometimes eaten by the country people both of India and Indo-China. It is one of the few snakes in the Oriental region that is eaten by man. Its flesh is white and is said to taste not unlike that of chicken.

99 *Ptyas korros*.

INDO-CHINESE RAT SNAKE

- Coluber korros* Schlegel, 1837, *Phys Serp* n., p. 139, and Abbild Amphib 1840, p. 99, pls 27-28, figs 1-6 (Java, Leiden)—*Ptyas korros*, Günther, *Rept Brit Ind* 1864, p. 250, Pope, *Rept China*, 1935, p. 217, Bourret, *Serp Indo-Chine*, 1936, p. 176, Shaw & others, *J Darjeeling N H S* xiv, 1939, p. 71, Smith, *Rec Ind Mus* xlii, 1940, p. 481—*Zamenis korros*, Boulenger, *F B I* 1890, p. 324, and *Cat Sn Brit Mus* i, 1893, p. 384, Wall & Evans, *J Bombay N H S* xiii, 1900-1901, pp. 353, 620, Wall, *ibid* xix, 1909, p. 622 and xxix, 1923, p. 618, Smith, *J Nat Hist Soc Siam*, i, 1914, p. 94, Kopstein *Treubia*, xi, 1930, p. 301, fig (eggs).
- Ptyas korros chinensis* Mell, 1930, *Sitz Ber Ges Nat Fr Berlin* p. 320 (Yao-shan, Kwangsi).
- Ptyas korros indicus* Mell, 1931, *Lingnan Sci J* viii, p. 208 (S W Yunnan).
- Ilopetis libertatis* Barbour, 1910, *Pr Biol Soc Washington*, xxvii, p. 169 (Buitenzorg, Java), Dunn, *Amer Mus Nov No* 287, 1927, p. 1 (= *korros*).

Maxillary teeth 23 to 28 Scales in 15 15 rarely 13 11
rows, smooth V 160-187, C 120-147, A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 10-12th caudal plate, the distal half is calyculate, the cups being feebly serrated and longer than broad, towards the basal end they are larger and much more thickly walled; this area passes abruptly into a spinous one, the spines being thick and fleshy and ending in a spicule; there are 6 or 7 in lateral series; at the base are two much larger spines, the sulcus lips are involved in the calyces

Olivaceous-green anteriorly, browner posteriorly, the scales on the posterior part of the body edged or tipped with black, yellowish-white below, the outer margins of the ventrals and caudals sometimes edged with black. The young are olive-greenish with narrow white (yellow or pearl-coloured in life) cross-bars composed of series of spots. Some individuals have the scales on the posterior part of the body edged laterally with white, these markings showing up as pale longitudinal lines

Total length ♂ 2000, tail 680, ♀ 1435, tail 475 mm (2198 mm Wall)

Range The Indo-Chinese region east of longitude 92°, in Assam as far north as the Mishmi Hills in Upper Burma to lat 28° Yunnan, S China, Hainan, Malaysia

In its choice of haunts, food and disposition the Indo-Chinese Rat Snake is much like the Dhaman. It prefers however, to live away from habitations and has strong arboreal tendencies, seeming to prefer life in bushes or on low trees rather than on the ground. In Bangkok it was not uncommon, but I found it only in one district, a small area covered with bushes, and during the wet monsoon. From the end of November, when the dry cool weather set in, until the rains commenced some time in April, it was never seen

Genus ZAOCYS.

Zaocys Cope, 1860, Pr Acad Sci Philad p 563 (type *Coluber dhumnades*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 329, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 374, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 207, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 169, Werner, Zool Jahrb Jena, lvi, 1929, p 74

Zaocys (Zapyrus) Günther 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 256 (type *fuscus*)

Ptyas, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 616

Maxillary teeth 20 to 33, increasing slightly in size posteriorly. Head elongate, distinct from neck, eye large, with round pupil; a presubocular. Body elongate, scales smooth or more or less distinctly keeled, with apical pits, in 16 or 14 rows at mid-body, ventrals rounded, tail long; subcaudals paired

Common characters, unless otherwise stated —nostril large between two nasals, one large preocular, not reaching the frontal, 2 postoculars, temporals 2+2, posterior genials longer than the anterior, in contact with one another anteriorly

Range Indo-China, China, Malay Peninsula and Archipelago, Philippines

6 species, 2 in Indo-China

Key to the Species

2 or 3 loreals
A single loreal

carinatus, p 164
nigromarginatus, p 165

100 *Zaocys carinatus*.

Coryphodon carinatus Günther (in part), 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p 112 (Borneo, London) —*Zaocys carinatus*, Günther Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 256, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus, 1, 1893, p 377, and Ann Mus Civ Genova, (2) xiii, 1893, p 324 Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, ii, 1916 p 180, Joynson, ibid vi, 1927, p 314, Bourriet, Serp Indo Chine 1936 p 173, fig —*Ptyas carinatus*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxi, 1926, p 562
Zaocys tenasserimensis Sclator, 1891, J A S Bengal, ix, p 238, pl 6 (Tenasserim, Calcutta) —*Ptyas tenasserimensis*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 617

Maxillary teeth 22 to 26, internasals two-thirds the length of the prefrontals, 2-4 loreals, 8-10 supralabials, 4th and 5th, or 5th and 6th, touching the eye Scales in 18 16 or 14 12 rows, the 4 to 6 median ones keeled V 208-215, C 110-118, A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 15th caudal plate, not forked On the external wall of the organ, and extending from about the middle nearly to the tip, are two longitudinal fissures which extend deeply into it and nearly divide it into two, the two parts are united to each other by connective tissue along which the sulcus spermaticus is conveyed On cutting into the hemipenis in the usual way, the sulcus is exposed in the middle, with the folds on each side These are sponge-like in form, but on close examination are found to be composed of closely set flounces, transversely arranged, distally they form smooth longitudinal folds which converge and meet at the tip, proximally they are united and form large, thick-walled calyces, the basal one-third has coarse spines, 2 or 3 at the extreme base being very large

Olive-brownish above anteriorly, with or without black edgings to the scales, and with or without a series of indistinct yellow cross-bars, the colour of which is mainly on the interstitial skin, yellowish-brown posteriorly, with 6 black, irregular, longitudinal stripes, connected together more or less distinctly to form a network, tail black, each scale with

a large central yellow spot, lower parts whitish anteriorly, black and yellow posteriorly, tail black, each caudal shield with a large semilunar yellow spot

Total length. ♂ 3020, tail 730 mm (about 12 ft 3 in)

Range Tenasserim (Tavoy River); S Burma (Karin Hills); Siam (Me Pow Forest, 20 miles E. of Muang Ngow, in the extreme north, Nakon-Sri-Tamarat Mts in the Peninsula); Annam (Bana), the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago

The largest of all the Asiatic Colubrids. All the specimens, 8 in number, that I have examined, are males

Z. tenasserimensis differs from *carinatus* in having 7 and 8 supralabials respectively, one long shield touching the eye, and in having two anterior temporals, one above the other. I regard it as an aberrant individual in which fusion of the labials and temporals has produced this unusual set of characters. It is a juvenile and a female.

101 *Zaocys nigromarginatus*.

Coluber nigromarginatus Blyth, 1854, J. A. S. Bengal, xxiii, p. 290 (vicinity of Darjeeling; Calcutta) — *Zaocys nigromarginatus*. Günther, Rept. Brit. Ind. 1864, p. 257, pl. xii, fig. B. Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 329, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. i, 1893, p. 376. Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xvii, 1907, p. 325, and xix, 1909, pp. 344, 621. Pope, Rept. China, 1935, p. 214, figs. Smith, Rec. Ind. Mus. xli, 1940, p. 481 — *Ptyas nigromarginatus*, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxix, 1923, p. 617, and xxx, 1925, p. 812. Shaw & others, J. Darjeeling N. H. S. xiv, 1939, p. 70.

Zaocys dhumnades nigromarginatus Bourret, 1936, Serp. Indo-Chine, p. 172.

Maxillary teeth 22 to 26; internasals nearly or quite as long as the prefrontals, loreal longer than high, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye. Scales in 18 or 16, 16 or 14. 14 rows, the 4-6 median ones keeled. V 190-209, C 123-142, A 2. Hemipenis as in *carinatus*.

Green above, the scales edged with black, with four broad, black, longitudinal stripes. In the young they extend the whole length of the body and tail, but in the adult are confined to the posterior one-third of the body, the dorsal pair, on each side of the vertebral line, are the broadest and are $2\frac{1}{2}$ scales wide, the lower $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 scales wide, border the ventrals; lower parts greenish-white, top of head brown.

Total length. ♂ 2260, tail 650 mm. (2560, tail 720, Bourret).

Range The Eastern Himalayas (Nepal, Sikkim, Darjeeling), Assam and Upper Burma (Khasi, Kachin and Naga Hills and Pangnamdim in the Nam Tamai Valley), Tong-King (Chapa), Yunnan and Western China.

Found in the hills up to 7,000 ft. altitude.

The beauty of this snake in life has been well described by Wall (1907) 'It is difficult to realise from the museum specimens the extreme beauty and brilliancy of colouring of many snakes in life, and this forcibly applies in the present instance. My specimen was a bright green of so soft a hue that the skin looked like velvet. This merged into a yellowish green anteriorly, and yellow posteriorly, the latter merging into a rich black on the tail. The black margins to the scales served to enhance the beauty of the dorsal green. The head was olive-brown with a bright yellow patch low on the temporal region. The chin and throat were white, sparsely speckled at first, more heavily later, with light cærulean blue, which

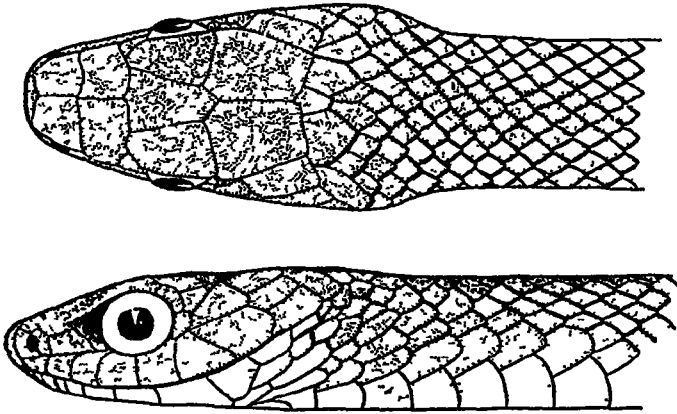


Fig 50 — *Zaocys nigromarginatus* (B M 1914 3 2 12)

merged to blue-green, then pale greenish, and, finally, yellow in the length of the snake. Some grey speckling was seen beneath the tail."

According to him also (1907) "the secretion of the anal glands was blackish, an unusual colour I have seen only in the Kraits (*Bungarus*)"

Genus COLUBER.

RACERS

- Coluber* Linn 1758, Syst Nat, Ed 10, p 216, in part (type *constrictor*), Stejneger & Barbour, Check List N Amer Amphib & Rept 1917, p 78, Ortenburger, Mem Univ Michigan Mus 1, 1928, p 1, Werner, Zool Jahrb lvi, 1929, p 63 (in part), Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 223
Zamenis Wagler, 1830, Nat Syst Amphib p 188 (type *gemonensis*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 323, and P Z S 1891, p 632, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 379, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 618

- Platyceps* Blyth, 1860, J A S Bengal, xxix, p 114 (type *semifasciatus*)
Megablades Günther, 1863, Ann Mag Nat. Hist (3) xv, p 92 (type *olivaceus=dipsas*).
Spalerosophis Jan, 1863, in De Filippi, Viagg Persia, p 356, Schmidt, Field Mus Nat Hist, Zool xvii, 1930, p 226 (type, by designation, *microlepis*), and *ibid* xxiv, 1939, p 77
Argyrogena Werner, 1924, Sitz Ber Akad Wiss Wien, cxxxiii, p 51 (type *rostrata*)
Acanthocalyx Cope, 1895, Tr Amer Phil Soc xviii, p 204 (type *ventrimaculatus*)

The above synonymy refers only to the Oriental species

Maxillary teeth 13 to 18 (for the species included in this work), increasing in size posteriorly, the last two separated from the others by a more or less distinct interval (except sometimes in *diadema*) Head elongate, distinct from neck, eye large, with round pupil, one or more suboculars Body elongate, cylindrical, scales in 19-33 rows at mid-body, reducing by 4-8 rows before the tail, with apical pits. Ventrals rounded or with a lateral keel, tail moderate or long, subcaudals paired

Common characters, unless otherwise stated —Snout projecting, a more or less distinct canthus rostralis, nostril between two nasals, loreal squarish or a little longer than broad, one large preocular, extending on to the upper surface of the head, usually touching the frontal, a presubocular below it, 2 postoculars, posterior genials longer and narrower than the anterior, the latter separated from one another by small scales

Range Europe, Africa north of the Equator, Asia

Wall, J Bombay N. H. S xviii, 1908, p 689, and xxix. 1923, p 618, records a specimen of the African *C florulentus* from Quetta, Baluchistan The specimen cannot now be found.

Key to the Species.

- I Scales in 19 rows
 Two labials touch the eye, V 199-211, [p 168 .
 C 82-119 *ventrimaculatus*,
 Two labials touch the eye, V 205-244,
 C 110-144 *rhodorhachis*, p. 168.
 One labial touches the eye, the 6th separated
 from it by a subocular *karehm*, p 169
- II Scales in 21 or 23 rows
 8 supralabials, C 77-92 . . . *fasciolatus*, p. 170
 9 supralabials, C 118-127, 1 preocular *gracilis*, p 171
 9 supralabials, C 82-101, 2 preoculars *ravergieri*, p 172
- III Scales in 25 or 33 rows, eye separated
 from the labials by a series of sub-
 oculars
 Rostral not higher than broad, *diadema*, p 173
 Rostral much higher than broad, produced well
 on to the upper surface of the snout . . *arenarius*, p 175

102 *Coluber ventromaculatus*.

Coluber ventromaculatus Gray & Hardwicke, 1834, Ill. Ind Zool., pl 80, fig 1 (no type loc given, London) — *Zamenis ventromaculatus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 325, and Cat Sn. Brit. Mus 1, 1893, p 399, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, p 97, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxiii, 1914, p 38, col pl and (in part) xxix, 1923, p 618, Ingoldby, ibid xxix, 1923, p 128
Coluber chesnei Martin, 1838, P Z S p 81 (Euphrates, London).
Platycephalus semifasciatus Blyth, 1861, J A S Bengal, xxix, p 114 (near Simla), Blanford, ibid xlv, 1875, p 208

Maxillary teeth 14 or 15, diastema distinct, head very distinct from neck. Rostral as high as broad or a little higher, extending well on to the snout, separating the internasals anteriorly, internasals a little shorter than the prefrontals, temporals 2+3, 9 supralabials, 5th and 6th touching the eye, 6th highest and in contact with the lower anterior temporal, which is larger than the others. Scales in 19-19-15 or 13 rows, smooth, V 199-211, angulate laterally, C 82-119, A 2, for specimens from India and Persia.

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, the calyculate area occupies $\frac{1}{3}$ of the organ, the cups being deeply scalloped and spinose, this area merges gradually into a spinose one, the spines being more or less uniform in size, there are about 20 in lateral series.

Light greyish above with a dorsal series of black cross-bars or rhomboidal spots, the colour of which is confined chiefly to the edges of the scales, a series of smaller spots along the sides of the body formed in the same way, and usually alternating with the dorsal bars, ventrals whitish or yellowish, a short black vertebral stripe on the neck, an oblique black bar below the eye and another on the temple, present or absent. Head greyish, with or without dark symmetrical markings, tail above uniform greyish. The width, and intensity of blackness, of the dorsal bars is variable, they may be narrower or broader than their interspaces.

Total length: ♂ 1090, tail 275, ♀ 1000, tail 285 mm.

Range North-western India through Afghanistan and Persia to Uzbekistan, and west to Palestine. Recorded in India from Chitral in the north, eastwards to Almora district in the United Provinces, and south to Kandesh in the Bombay Presidency.

103 *Coluber rhodorhachis*.

Zamenis rhodorachis Jan, 1865, in De Filippi, Viagg in Persia, p 356 (Persia), Boulenger, P Z S 1891, p 632, and Cat Sn. Brit. Mus 1, 1893, p 398, Alcock & Finn, J A S Bengal, lxxv, 1896, p 563, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, p 95, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxviii, 1908, p 798, and xx, 1911, p 1034, and xxi, 1911, p 134.

Zamenis ladacensis Anderson, 1871, J A S Bengal, xl, p 16

(Ladak, Calcutta), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 326

Gonyosoma dorsale Anderson, 1871, P Z S p 395, fig (Shiraz, Persia, Calcutta)

Zamenis ventrimaculatus, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 618 (in part)

Like *ventromaculatus* in head scalation Scales in 19 . 19 13 or 11 rows, V ♂ 205-229 (252) , ♀ 218-244 , C ♂ 110-144 , ♀ 124-136 , A 2 (for specimens from India and Persia). V 252 occurs in a ♂ from Gilgit

Hemipenis like that of *ventromaculatus*

Two distinct colour forms can be defined , intergradation between them is rare

I Like *ventromaculatus*, but the dorsal bars often interrupted on the vertebral line, so that series of short paired bars or spots result, or the spots may be arranged in a chessboard pattern , the black vertebral stripe of the nape is replaced by one or two cross-bars , sides of the head with regular spots or vertical bars, the area in front of and behind the eye always yellow , the uniform colour of the tail extends on to the posterior part of the body

II Uniform greyish, the scales finely edged with dark green or black, and with a red or pink vertebral stripe which disappears on the hinder part of the body

Length as in *ventromaculatus* but of more slender habit

Range Egypt, Arabia and Transcaspia to NW India. Form I, within Indian limits, is known from Baluchistan, Chitral and Gilgit Form II inhabits Persia, Arabia and Baluchistan

Wall has united this species with *ventromaculatus*, and Form I certainly resembles it very closely The higher ventral count, however, the greater reduction of scale-rows on the posterior part of the body, and the slight differences in coloration, justify its retention as a distinct species

104 *Coluber karelini*.

Coluber (Tyria) karelini Brandt, 1838, Bull Acad St Petersburg, p 243 (S W Asia) — *Zamenis karelini*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 326, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 401, Alcock & Finn, J A S Bengal, lxx, 1896 p 563, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, p 98, Wall, J Bombay N H S xx, 1911, p 1035, and xxx, 1923, p 618

Maxillary teeth 13 to 15, diastema distinct, head very distinct from neck, snout pointed and strongly projecting, rostral as broad as high, extending well on to the snout, separating the internasals anteriorly, internasals usually longer than the prefrontals, temporals 2+3; 9 supralabials, 5th touching the eye, 6th prevented by a subocular. Body more slender than in the two preceding species, scales in

19 19 13 rows, smooth, V 193–212, angulate laterally, C 85–110, A 2

Hemipenis the calyculate area occupies one-third of the organ, the cups are very large, much longer than broad, and deeply scalloped, with spinose edges, the spines are of uniform size, about 20 in lateral series

There are two colour forms

I Light greyish above with narrow black cross-bars which are broadest on the fore-part of the body and always narrower than their interspaces, sides of the body with vertical spots, which alternate with the cross-bars and extend on to the outer margins of the ventrals, a black bar below the eye and an oblique one on the temple, lower parts whitish or yellowish

II Pale greyish above with (in life) a bright orange vertebral stripe, the interstitial skin on the anterior part of the body is black and this may include the margins of some of the scales on the neck

Total length ♂ 835, tail 225, ♀ 940, tail 230 mm

Range Transcaspia, Turkestan, Persia, Afghanistan, Baluchistan

A South-west Asian species that just reaches India on the Afghan-Baluchistan border Both colour forms are known from that area

105 *Coluber fasciolatus*.

BANDED RACER

Russell, *Ind Serp* 1, 1796, p 26, pl xvi (India)

Coluber fasciolatus Shaw, 1802, *Gen Zool* iii, p 528 (based on Russell's plate) — *Zamenis fasciolatus*, Gunther, *Rept Brit Ind* 1864, p 254, pl xxi, fig F, Boulenger, *F B I* 1890, p 327, and *Cat Sn Brit Mus* 1, 1893, p 404, Wall, *J Bombay N H S* xviii, 1907, p 115, and xxiii, 1914, p 34, col pl, and xxix, 1923, p 619, and *Sn Ceylon*, 1921, p 191, Prater, *J Bombay N H S* xxx, 1929, p 169, Nichols, *Spol Zeyl* xv, 1929, p 91, and xvii, 1932, p 39, Fraser, *J Bombay N H S* xxxix, 1937, p 476

Coluber hebe Daudin, 1803, *Hist Nat Rept* vi, p 385 (based on Russell's plate)

Coluber curvirostris Cantor, 1839, *P Z S* p 51 (col sketch in Bodleian Library, Bengal)

Argyrogena rostrata Werner, 1924, *Sitz Ber Akad Wiss Wien*, cxxxi, p 51 ("Argentine", Vienna), Smith, *Ann Mag Nat Hist* (10) 1, 1928, p 495

Maxillary teeth 12 to 14, diastema distinct, snout strongly projecting, head feebly distinct from neck, rostral large, much broader than high, suture between the internasals about as long as that between the prefrontals, presubocular sometimes absent, temporals 2+3 or 3+3, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 5th highest and touching the lower anterior temporal Scales smooth, in 21 or 23 21 or

23 17 or 15 rows V 197 to 225, obtusely angulate laterally ,
C 77-92 , A 2

Hemipenis the distal one-third of the organ has closely packed, deep-walled calyces , these have finely denticulate edges, but no spines , there are three prominent folds, one of which contains the sulcus , the distal area, both on the folds and between them, is covered with irregularly shaped, closely set papillæ , there are no large spines as in the other species mentioned in this work, but many of the papillæ have minute spicules projecting from their tips

The young are light or dark olive-brown above, beautifully ornamented with narrow cross-bars on the anterior half of the body , these are formed by a pattern of white, and dark brown or black, the colours being more or less equally distributed upon the scales , posterior part of body with indistinct dark cross-bars or spots, these markings gradually disappearing towards the tail, which is uniform brown in colour , head above marbled with light and dark olive, and two white spots, one on each side of the interparietal suture With age the markings tend to disappear, and old individuals are usually uniform brown in colour , lower parts whitish or yellowish

Total length ♂ 1015, tail 250 , ♀ 1000, tail 210 mm

Wall records an individual 4 ft 2½ in (1260 mm) in length

Range Peninsular India, extending in the north-west as far as a line drawn from Baroda through Gwalior to the Himalayas south of Nepal , in the east to Western Bengal ; northern Ceylon

According to Wall it is fairly common in Mysore, and is quite a common snake in Konkan, Bombay district In other parts of its wide range it appears to be rare

A plucky and vicious snake , when molested it erects itself, and flattens the body behind the neck like a cobra, for which snake it is sometimes mistaken (Wall)

106 *Coluber gracilis*.

Zamenis gracilis Günther, 1862, Ann Mag Nat Hist (3) ix, p 125, and Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 254, pl xxi, fig H (Sind, London), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 327, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 404, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 618

Maxillary teeth 13 or 14, diastema distinct , head very distinct from neck , rostral as broad as high, not separating the internasals, which are nearly as long as the prefrontals, temporals 2+2 ; 9 supralabials, 5th and 6th touching the eye, 6th highest and in contact with the anterior lower temporal. Scales in 21 21 . 15 rows, smooth V 206-222 ; C 118-127 ; A 2

Hemipenis not known

Light greyish-brown above, with narrow white, black-edged cross-bars which expand on the outer sides of the body and connect more or less completely with those in front and behind, thus enclosing circular or oval spots, these markings become less distinct on the hinder part of the body and tail, where they are replaced by short, narrow, black cross-bars or spots, head above with white, black-edged markings, namely, a bar across the snout in front of the eye, and two A-shaped marks behind, one on the vertex, the other on the nape, lower parts whitish or yellowish, the outer margins of the ventrals with black spots

Total length ♀ 930, tail 270 mm

Range India Neighbourhood of Bombay, Central Provinces (Asirgarh); *vide* Wall

A rare snake known only from a few specimens Gunther's illustration of this very beautiful species is excellent

107 *Coluber ravergieri*.

Coluber ravergieri Ménetriés, 1832, Cat Rais Obj Zool p 69 (Baku, Leningrad) — *Zamenis ravergieri*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 405, Wall, J Bombay N. H S xx, 1911, p 1035, and xxi, 1911, p 137, and xxix, 1923, p 619, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, p 102

Maxillary teeth 14 or 15, diastema distinct, rostral broader than high, scarcely visible from above, internasals about as long as the prefrontals, 2 preoculars; temporals 2+3 or 3+3, 9 supralabials, 5th and 6th touching the eye, 6th highest and in contact with the lower anterior temporal. Scales in 21 21 15 rows, smooth or obtusely keeled on the posterior part of the body V. 197-234, C 82-101, A 2

Hemipenis the distal end has two longitudinal, thick, sponge-like folds, lying on each side of the sulcus, the area upon one side being smooth, on the other calyculate The spines are relatively short and stout, there are from 15 to 20 in lateral series

Pale buff or greyish above, with a dorsal series of dark rhomboidal spots or narrow cross-bars, alternating with a series of smaller spots on each side, on the tail the spots are usually confluent, and form three conspicuous longitudinal streaks, an oblique dark streak below the eye, and another one from the eye to the angle of the mouth, head with symmetrical dark spots or nearly entirely black, belly uniform whitish, or more or less obscured with blackish dots

Total length ♂ 1160, tail 285, ♀ 1000, tail 215 mm

Range From Transcaspia and Transcaucasia to Baluchistan and the N W F Provinces Wall (1911) collected 7 examples in Chitral at altitudes varying from 9,000 to 11,000 ft One was picked up in a snow drift apparently dead, but revived in the warmth of the hand

108 *Coluber diadema*.

DIADEM SNAKE

Russell, 1801, Ind Serp ii, p 34, pl xxx
Coluber diadema Schlegel, 1837, Phys Serp ii, p 148 (based on Russell's plate) — *Zamenis diadema*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 252, pl xxi, fig G, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 328, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 411, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xx, 1911, p 1033, and xxi, 1911, p 138, and xxiii, 1914, p 210, col -pl, and xxix, 1923, p 619, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, p 107, Ingoldby, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 120 — *Spalerosophis diadema*, Schmidt, Field Mus Nat Hist, Zool xvii, 1930, p 226 and xxiv, 1939, p 77
Zamenis diadema var *atriceps* Fischer, 1885, Jahrb Hamburg Wiss Anst ii, p 102 (Himalayas)
Zamenis diadema melanoides Wall, 1911, J Bombay N H S xxii, p 211 (Jodpur, Rajputana and Baluchistan)

Maxillary teeth 16–18, diastema absent or very slight, head very distinct from neck, rostral not higher than broad,

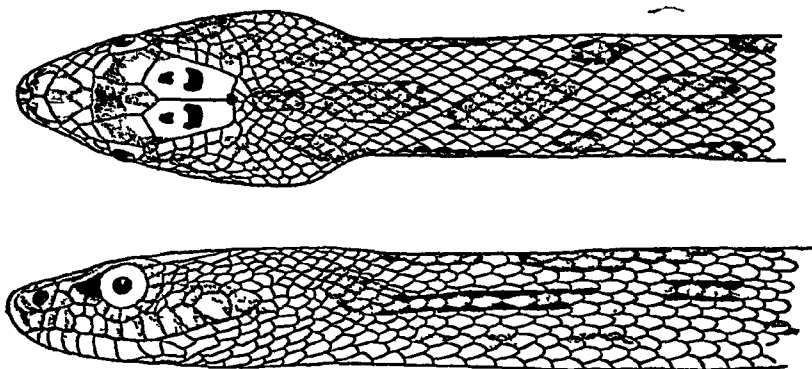


Fig 51 — *Coluber diadema diadema* (B M 1901.1 30 10)

prefrontals broken up into several shields, the median ones forming an angle with the hinder margins of the internasals, 2 loreals, one behind the other, 2 preoculars and a series of suboculars separating the labials from the eye, 3 or 4 postoculars, temporals small, scale-like, 3 or 4 anterior, 10–13 supralabials, posterior genials usually shorter than the anterior. Scales more or less obtusely keeled, in 29 or 31, rarely 27 or 33 rows at mid-body, 2 or 4 less on the neck, 21 or 19 posteriorly V 216–250 (278), C 82–112, A 2, for specimens from India, Baluchistan and Afghanistan. V 278 occurs in a ♀ from Gilgit

Hemipenis the distal half is calyculate, the calyces being large, much longer than broad and with denticulate edges, opposite the sulcus there are a few enormous cups, the area covered by the largest being from 6 to 10 times greater than that occupied by the cups in other parts, these large cups are

separated from the sulcus by a short, thick, spongiform fold. The spinose area is short, the spines being coarse and longest distally, and becoming shorter as they approach the base of the organ, there are about 20 in lateral series.

Two very distinct colour forms can be defined.

I *Coluber diadema diadema*. Light brownish or greyish above, with a dorsal series of large, dark, rounded or rhomboidal spots, alternating with a much smaller series on each side of the body, head with a regular pattern of darker markings, often broken up, the most constant being a dark bar between the eyes, an oblique stripe from behind the eye to the angle of the mouth, and a \cap or $()$ -shaped mark on the parietals, these markings are very distinct in the young, but become

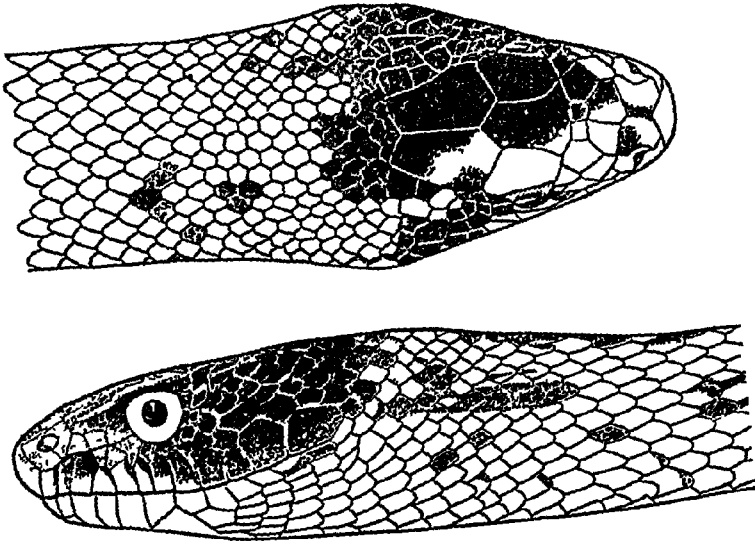


Fig 52 — *Coluber diadema atriceps*

less distinct as age advances, lower parts whitish, sometimes with indistinct dark spots at the outer margins of the ventrals.

II *Coluber diadema atriceps*. Light yellowish-brown, paler below than above, with irregularly scattered dark brown or black spots; these may be confined to individual scales, or may be much more thickly distributed, forming large rhomboidal dorsal spots, similar in position to the dorsal spots of *forma typica*. Head partly or entirely black. According to Wall, the dark markings of this form are in life claret-coloured or scarlet. Belly uniform rose-pink in life, with a lateral mottling of dark spots.

It is possible that these two forms represent distinct species.

In the arrangement of the dorsal markings, *atriceps* may resemble the typical form, but I have not seen any specimens of the typical form showing the head pattern of *atriceps*. The typical form also is more slender in body. The juvenile of the typical form is well known, that of *atriceps* has not yet been met with.

Total length ♂ 1200, tail 220, ♀ 1550, tail 325 mm. (*atriceps*) Wall records an individual 6 ft 7 in (1975 mm) in length.

Range *C. d atriceps* appears to be confined to India. I have examined specimens from Gilgit, Agra, Jeypore, Allahabad, Delhi and Harmand.

Forma typica has in India the same distribution as *atriceps*, but extends its range through Baluchistan, Afghanistan, Southern Turkestan and Persia to Northern Africa.

Wall found this snake common in Chitral at altitudes of 4,000 and 5,000 ft. His coloured plate showing both forms is excellent.

Schmidt (1939) splits *diadema* as here conceived into at least three species, restricting *diadema* proper to N.W. India. He places them in the genus *Spalerosophis*, which, he says, is more allied to *Elaphe* than to *Coluber*.

109 *Coluber arenarius*.

Zamenis arenarius Boulenger, 1890, F.B.I. p. 329 (Karachi and Sind, London), and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 413 pl. xxviii, fig. 2. Wall, J. Bombay N.H.S. xxix, 1923, p. 619 — *Spalerosophis arenarius*, Schmidt, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. xvii, 1930, p. 226.

Maxillary teeth 14, diastema very small, head very distinct from neck, rostral much higher than broad, extending well on to the upper surface of the snout, separating the internasals for half, or more than half, their length, prefrontals broken up into 3 or 4 shields arranged in a transverse series, the median forming an angle with the hinder margins of the internasals; 2 loreals, one behind the other, 2 preoculars, and a series of suboculars, separating the labials from the eye, 3 postoculars, temporals small and scale-like, 3 anterior 10 supralabials, posterior genuals longer or shorter than the anterior. Scales in 25, 25 or 27 rows, obtusely but distinctly keeled, strongly on the posterior part of the body. V 227, not angulate laterally, C 80, A 1.

Hemipenis much like that of *diadema* (specimen in poor condition).

Cream-colour or pale buff above, with darker spots disposed quincuncially, and a longitudinal streak on each side of the nape; lower parts whitish.

Total length ♂ 930, tail 175 mm.

Range N W India Karachi, Sind, Rajputana Known from three specimens, the types, two in number, consist of the head and anterior part of the body, the third, in the Indian Museum, is complete

Genus **XENELAPHIS.**

Xenelaphis Gunther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 250 (type *hexagonotus* *), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 336, and Cat Sn Brit Mus II, 1894, p 7, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 139

Maxillary teeth 25 to 30, gradually increasing in size posteriorly, compressed, head distinct from neck, eye moderately large, with round pupil, nostril between two nasals, a pre- and a postsubocular, body elongate, cylindrical, rather stout, scales smooth, in 17 rows, without apical pits, the vertebral row slightly enlarged and hexagonal, ventrals rounded, tail long, subcaudals paired Hypapophyses absent on the posterior dorsal vertebræ

A single species

110 *Xenelaphis hexagonotus.*

Coluber hexagonotus Cantor, 1847, Cat Malay. Rept p 74 (and errata, Great Hill, Pinang) — *Xenelaphis hexagonotus* Gunther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 251, pl xxi, fig C, Theobald, J Linn Soc x, 1868 p, 46, Tirant, Rept Cochun-Chine et Cambodge, 1885, p 417, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 336, and Cat Sn Brit Mus II, 1894, p 8, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 139, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 620. Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 183 — *Ptyas hexahonotus*, Theobald, Cat Rept Brit Ind 1876, p 168

Coryphodon sublutescens Dum & Bib, Erp Gen 1854, vii, p 187 (Java)

Internasals as long as, or a little longer than, the prefrontals, loreal about as long as the eye, 1 large preocular, 2 postoculars, temporals 2+2, normally 8 supralabials, the 4th touching the eye, the 3rd and 5th excluded by a small presubocular and a large postsubocular, a 3rd subocular sometimes present, separating the eye from the labials, genials elongate, anterior pair longest Scales in 17 17 15 or 13 rows V 185-198, C 140-179, A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, not forked, the distal half is calyculate, the cups being large, thick-walled and feebly scalloped, the posterior half has large, fleshy spines, 4 or 5 in lateral series, at the extreme tip of the organ there are two smooth pockets, extending the whole length of the calyculate area are two folds, they are provided with short, stout spines, the larger of the two encloses the sulcus

The young are pale brownish in colour, with strongly marked black cross-bars, which are indistinct on the posterior part of the body and absent on the tail, these markings

* *hexahonotus* as originally spelt is a clerical error

disappear with age and adult individuals are dark olive above, the cross-bars showing as indistinct marks on the sides of the body, lower parts uniform yellowish

Total length ♂ 1380, tail 480 mm

Range The Malayan Region; Southern Indo-China

Theobald (1868) records a specimen caught in Rangoon, and Tirant (1885) 2 specimens captured in the gardens of Cholon near Saigon. It has not been obtained in Indo-China since, and none of the specimens are available for examination now.

Genus OPHEODRYS.

Opheodrys Fitzinger, 1843, Syst. Rept p 26 (type *æstivus*), Schmidt, Herpetologica, Chicago, 1, 1936, p 63

Cyclophis Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p 119, and Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 229, Schmidt, Herpetologica, Chicago, 1, 1936, p 64 (type *æstivus*)

Eurypholis (not of Pictet, 1850) Hallowell, 1860, Proc Acad Nat Sci Philad xii, p 493 (type *semicarinatus*), Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 281

Cyclophiops Boulenger, 1888, Ann Mus Civ Genova, (2) vi, p 599 (type *doræ*)

Entechinus Cope, 1895, Pr Acad. Nat Sci Philad xlv, p 427 (type *Cyclophis major*)

Maxillary teeth 18 to 33, equal, or 1 or 2 of the most anterior and posterior smaller than the others, head distinct from neck, eye large with round pupil. Body elongate, cylindrical. Scales in 15 rows throughout, smooth or keeled, without apical pits, ventrals rounded, tail long, subcaudals paired.

Common characters, unless otherwise stated:—Nostril between two nasals, internasals much smaller than the prefrontals; loreal small, longer than high, 1 pre-, and 2 or 3 postoculars, temporals 1+2, 8, rarely only 7, supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye.

Range The Indo-Chinese subregion, China; Formosa, the Riu Kiu Islands; North America.

The genus includes eight species, four are included in the present work; two more inhabit Formosa and the Riu Kiu Islands, the remainder North America. The predominant colour of all the species is green.

Key to the Species

I Less than 188 ventrals

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Internasals truncate anteriorly, anal divided, uniform green above | <i>major</i> , p 178 |
| Internasals distinctly narrowed anteriorly, anal divided; green above anteriorly, greyer posteriorly, with or without light cross-bars posteriorly | <i>multicincta</i> , p 179. |
| Snout strongly convex in profile, anal entire, uniform green above | <i>doræ</i> , p 181 |

II Ventrals 194

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Anal entire, uniform green above | <i>hamptoni</i> , p. 180 |
|--|--------------------------|

111. *Opheodrys major*.

Cyclophus major Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p 120 (Ningpo, China, London), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus n, 1894, p 279 — *Eurypholis major*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 283, figs, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 259

Herpetodryas chloris Hallowell, 1860, Pr Acad Nat Sci Phila xii, p 503 (Hong-kong)

Coluber delacouri Smith, 1930, Ann Mag Nat Hist (10) vi, p 681 (Fan-si-pan Mountains, Tong-King, London)

Maxillary teeth 20-23, 1 or 2 of the most anterior and posterior smaller than the others (fig 48, p 159), diameter of the eye less than its distance from the nostril, internasals truncate anteriorly, nostrils lateral, genials variable, the anterior pair longer or shorter than the posterior. Scales in 15 15.15 rows, smooth or some of the mid-dorsal rows posteriorly more or less distinctly keeled. V 154-178; C 70-92; A 2.

Hemipenis extending to the 14th caudal plate, not forked, the distal $\frac{2}{3}$ is calyculate, the cups being large, deep, thick-

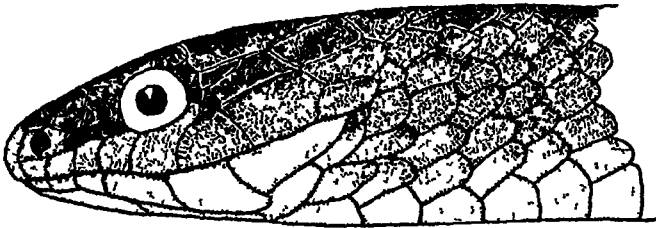


Fig 53 — *Opheodrys major*. (B M. 1930.11 16 6.)

walled, and of almost uniform size throughout, the edges are scalloped and have small, sparsely scattered spines; this area passes abruptly into a spinose one, the spines being large and few in number

Uniform green above, whitish, or pale greenish below, the colour descending on to the outer margins of the ventral shields. A juvenile from China in the British Museum collection has a vertebral series of black blotches on the anterior part of the body

Total length ♂ 1200, tail 270 (Tong-King), ♀ 795, tail 185 mm (Ning-po, China)

Pope's measurements of a good series of specimens from China show that the species is consistently smaller there than it is in Tong-King; he also points out that the males are larger than the females

Variation. Fragmentation of the upper anterior portion of the anterior temporal may occur giving the impression of two anterior shields

Range China, Hong Kong, Tong-King (Fan-si-pan Mountains)

Found in the hills at varying altitudes

Pope, writing of the snake in China, states "near Yenping I daily met it gliding about on the forest floor. It is apparently diurnal. It neither bites, strikes, nor assumes a defensive pose when annoyed." It feeds upon earthworms and caterpillars. From 4 to 13 eggs are laid at a time.

112 *Ophedrys multicinctus*.

Ablabes multicinctus Roux, 1907, Zool Anz xxxi, p. 762 (Tong-King, Basel) — *Liopeltis multicinctus*, Angel & Bourret, Bull Soc Zool France, lvi, 1933, p. 135 — *Liopeltis major multicinctus*, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p. 262 — *Eurypholis multicinctus*, Pope, Rept China, 1936, p. 285

Ablabes retrofasciatus Angel, 1920, Bull Mus Hist Nat Paris, xxvi, p. 293, fig (Laos, Paris)

Zamenis moi Smith, 1921, P Z S p. 425 (Dran, S Annam; London), Parker, Ann Mag Nat Hist 1925 (9) xv, p. 303

Ablabes multicinctus bicolor Angel, 1929, Bull Mus Hist Nat Paris (2) i, p. 79 (Chiang-Kouang, Haut Laos, Paris) — *Liopeltis major bicolor*, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p. 262

Maxillary teeth 18–20, one or two of the most anterior and posterior smaller than the others, diameter of the eye less than its distance from the nostril, snout distinctly convex, in profile with indistinct canthus rostralis, internasals narrowed anteriorly, the snout more pointed than in *major*, genials as in *major*. Scales in 15 15 15 rows, smooth V. 164–177, C 72–103, A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 14th caudal plate, not forked, the distal half is calyculate and passes abruptly into the spinose area, near the spines, which are relatively large and few, the calyces are thick-walled and edged with numerous short, soft papillæ, distal to this they are smaller and are packed so closely together that only the papillæ are visible on the surface. Parallel to the sulcus on its outer side and extending the whole length of the calyculate area is a broad and prominent fold, deeply recessed on each side (fig 54 B), another shorter and narrower fold lies outside it, these folds are formed by invaginations of the wall of the organ, which show as obliquely placed slits on the outer side; on each side of the sulcus and near the tip the calyculate area is replaced by one with oblique folds, these converge towards one another and terminate at the sulcus in a A-shaped point.

Green above anteriorly, becoming greyer posteriorly, the colour extending on to the outer margins of the ventral scales, on the posterior half of the body and tail there are numerous narrow, whitish, black-edged cross-bars, which may be complete or alternate with those of the opposite side, in some

individuals they are very indistinct and they may be entirely absent, the black edging is not consistent and the pattern is usually formed by one half of a scale being dark, the other light; belly whitish, more or less thickly powdered with green or grey, or entirely grey posteriorly

Total length: ♂ 1070, tail 315; ♀ 905, tail 265 mm

Range Annam (Langbian plateau; Col des Nuages, Tourane); Haut Laos (Tran-ninh plateau), Tong-King (Chapa, Sam-das, Thai-men), China (Kwang-si Province)

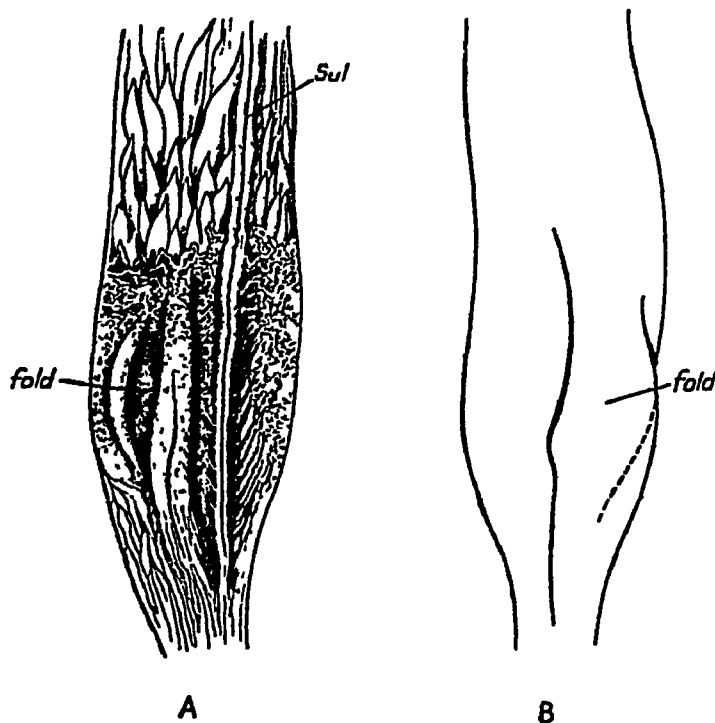


Fig 54 —Hemipenis of *Ophedrys multicinctus* (B M. 1921.4 1.31.)

A. Internal structure B Dorsal view of external covering, showing fold

113 *Ophedrys hamptoni*.

Ablabes hamptoni Boulenger, 1900, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist (7) vi, p. 409 (Mogok, Burma; London) —*Liopeltis hamptoni*, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xxxix, 1924, p 865.

Maxillary teeth 25. small, equal; eye large, its diameter greater than its distance from the nostril, snout pointed, convex in profile; internasals truncate anteriorly, nostrils lateral; a presubocular; anterior genials twice as long as the posterior Body elongate. Scales in 15 · 15 : 15 rows, smooth. V. 194; C 76, A. 1.

Uniform green above, the colour descending on to the outer margins of the ventral scales, upper lips and lower parts whitish

Total length 1070, tail 220 mm.

Known only from the type, which is a female

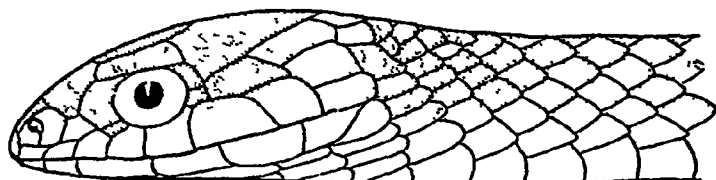


Fig 55—*Opheodrys hamptoni* (B M 1900 9 20 15)

114 *Opheodrys dorae*.

Cyclophiops dorae Boulenger, 1888, Ann Mus Civ Genova, (2) vi, p 599, pl vi (Kachin Hills, Burma, London and Genoa) — *Ablabes dorae*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 306, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus II, 1894, p 279 — *Liopeltis dorae*, Wall, J Bombay N. H. S. xxix, 1924, p 864, and xxx, 1925, p 806 — *Eurypholis dorae*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 281, pl xi

Maxillary teeth 30–33, small, equal; eye large, its diameter greater than its distance from the nostril; snout shorter and more convex than in *hamptoni*, internasals truncate anteriorly, nostrils directed outwards and slightly upwards, anterior genials twice as long as the posterior Scales in 15 · 15 15 rows, smooth V 168–187, C 74–80, A 1

Hemipenis as in *major*, but the calyculate area less extensive and the cups at the extreme tip packed more closely together

Uniform green above, upper lip and lower parts whitish

Total length: ♂ 795, tail 185 mm The type in London, which cannot now be found, measured 910 mm in total length, tail 210 mm

Range Assam (Manipur), Upper Burma (Kachin Hills), S E Yunnan Only three specimens are known

Genus LIOPELTIS.

Liopeltis Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept p 26 (type *Herpetodryas tricolor* Schlegel), Stejneger, Herpet Japan, 1907, p 337, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1924, p 864

Gongylosoma Fitzinger, l c s p 25 (type *Coronella bahodeira* Schlegel), Stejneger, Nyt Mag Naturw Christiana, lx, 1922 (2) p 78

Ablabes Dumeril, 1853, Mem Acad Sci Paris, xxiii, p 454, and Dum & Bib, Erp Gen. vii, 1854, p 304, Boulenger, F. B I 1890, p 304, and Cat Sn Brit Mus II, 1894, p 278 (type *Coronella bahodeira* by designation 1890)

Phragmitophis Günther, 1862, Ann Mag Nat Hist (3) ix, p 126 (type *Cyclophis tricolor*)

Maxillary teeth 17-28, equal, head distinct or not from neck, eye large, with round pupil. Body cylindrical. Scales in 13, 15 or 17 rows, not reducing posteriorly (except in *stoliczkae*), smooth, without apical pits; ventrals rounded, tail long, subcaudals paired.

Common characters —1 pre- and 1 or 2 postoculars, temporals 1+2.

Range The Oriental Region. Dwarfed snakes, the largest not exceeding 800 mm in total length. Nine species are known, the three not included in this work inhabit the Malayan subregion.

Key to the Species

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| A Head distinct from neck, nostril in a long undivided nasal, head and (or) neck with longitudinal stripes, scales in 15 rows | |
| Loreal present, C 70-105 | <i>frenatus</i> , p 182 |
| Loreal present, C 116-134 | <i>stoliczkae</i> , p 184 |
| Loreal united with nasal, C 53-78 | <i>calamaria</i> , p 184 |
| B Head not, or scarcely distinct, from neck, nostril large, between two nasals, a dark bar across the neck | |
| Scales in 17 rows | <i>nicolariensis</i> , p 185 |
| Scales in 15 rows | <i>rappi</i> , p 186 |
| Scales in 13 rows | <i>scriptus</i> , p 186 |

115 *Liopeltis frenatus*.

Cyclophis frenatus Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p 120 ("Afghanistan", London), and Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 230, pl 19, fig 1—*Ablabes frenatus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 306, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 280, Annandale, Rec Ind Mus vii, 1912, p 47, Angel, Bull Mus H N Paris (2) i, 1929, p 79—*Liopeltis frenatus*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923-1924, pp 467 and 864, and xxx, 1925, p 816 and xxvi, 1926, p 563, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 481.

Maxillary teeth 19-21, head not depressed, distinct from neck, snout not projecting, nostril rather large, in a long undivided nasal, sometimes a suture from it to the internasal loreal squarish or a little longer than high, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, anterior genuals a little shorter than the posterior. Scales in 15 15 15 rows. V 140-172, C 70-105, A 2.

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, the distal half is calyculate, the cups being deeply scalloped and of almost uniform size, with spinose edges, the proximal half is spinose, the spines being relatively large and few in number, parallel to the sulcus at the distal end, there is a short broad fold.

Olivaceous above, the scales edged with black and sometimes also with white, forming longitudinal lines on the anterior half of the body, a broad black stripe from behind

the eye, passing backwards on to the neck, where it runs parallel to its fellow of the opposite side, upper lip and lower parts whitish

Total length. ♂ 760, tail 235, ♀ 645, tail 195 mm

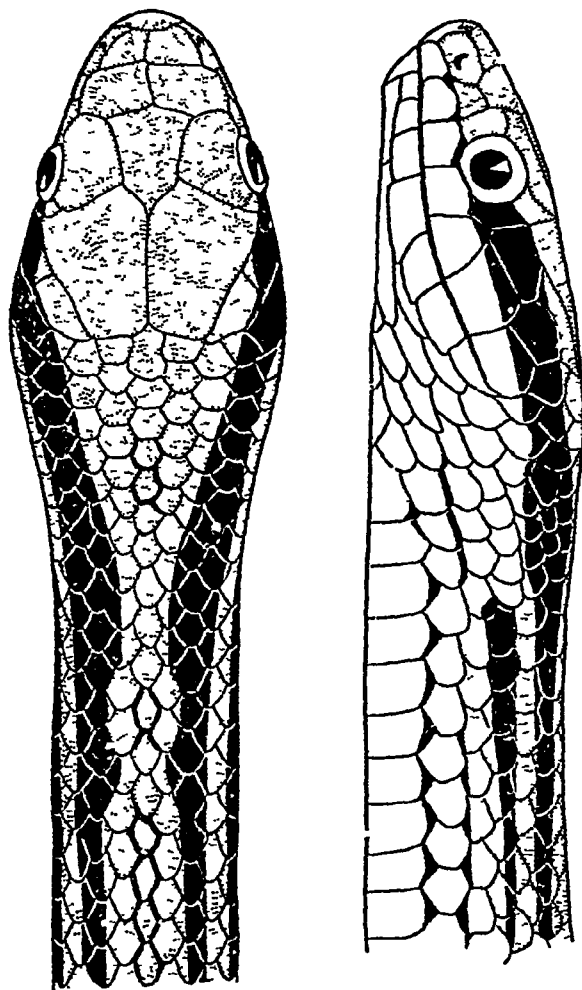


Fig 56 —*Liopeltis frenatus* $\times 2\frac{1}{2}$ (B M 1935 10 12 8-9)

Range. Assam (Khasi, Kachin and Mishmi Hills); Burma (Bhamo district and the Triangle); Upper Laos (Chieng-Kuang, Tran-ninh plateau), Annam (Tourane)

Found in the hills at altitudes between 2,000 and 6,000 ft Kaulback found it common at Htmgnan, in the Triangle, Upper Burma

116 *Liopeltis stoliczkae*.

Ablabes stoliczkae Sclater, 1891, J A S Bengal, lx, p 234, pl 6, fig 1 (Naga Hills, Assam, Calcutta), Boulenger, Ann Mus Civ Genova, (2) xiii, 1893, p 235, and Cat. Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 281, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xix, 1909, p 350, fig head—*Liopeltis stoliczkae*, Wall, ibid xxix, 1924, p 864, Shaw & Shebbeare, J Darjeeling N H S iv, 1929, p 31, Shaw, Shebb & Barker, J Bengal N H S. xv, 1940, p 60.

Maxillary teeth 27 or 28, head distinct from neck, much depressed, snout projecting, twice as long as the eye; nostril very small, in a long undivided nasal, loreal squarish, sometimes united with the posterior nasal, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye; genials subequal Scales in 15.15 13 rows V 148–154, C 116–134, A 2

Hemipenis not known

Greyish above, lighter below, a broad black stripe on the side of the head, extending and gradually disappearing, on the fore part of the body; a grey stripe on the outer margins of the ventrals and a less distinct and thinner median one present or absent

Total length ♂ 600, tail 225, ♀ 545, tail 205 mm

Range Sikkim, Darjeeling district, Assam (Naga Hills), Burma (Karm Hills)

A rare snake, only 5 specimens being known.

117 *Liopeltis calamaria*.

Cyclophis calamaria Gunther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p 250 (Ceylon, London)—*Ablabes calamaria*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 305, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 282, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxvi, 1919, p 569—*Liopeltis calamaria*, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 251, fig., and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1924, p 865

Homalosoma balotum Jan, 1862, Arch Zool Anat Phys ii, p 36, and Icon Gen xiii, 1865, pl 4, fig 4 (type loc unknown Milan, not seen by me)

Cyclophis nasalis Gunther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 231, pl 17, fig M (type loc unknown, London)

Maxillary teeth 24–26, head not depressed, fairly distinct from neck, snout not projecting, not twice as long as the eye, nostril very small, in a long undivided nasal, which is united with the loreal, normally 7 supralabials, rarely only 6, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, anterior genials a little longer than the posterior Scales in 15 15.15 rows V ♂, 126–142, ♀, 130–154, C ♂, 68–78, ♀, 53–72

According to Wall the variation in specimens from Ceylon is V 127–134, C 67–76

Hemipenis like that of *frenatus* in general construction, but the calyces smaller, more deeply scalloped, and packed so closely together that only the papillæ are visible on the

surface, the spines are shorter, thicker and more numerous; there is a fold

Light brown, greyish-brown or greenish, above, the scales usually edged with black, showing as more or less distinct longitudinal lines, the most conspicuous being one on each side of the vertebral region, they are separated from each other by five rows of scales. The area enclosed between them may be of a darker colour than that of the rest of the body, lower parts whitish (yellow in life), a series of dark spots on each side of the head, the remnants of temporal stripes.

Total length: ♂ 335, tail 108, ♀ 390, tail 100 mm

Range Ceylon, the Western Ghats as far North as Matheran, Tinnevely Hills, Mysore Plateau; Bangalore, United Provinces (Melaghat, Almora District, Kurkhana, Gonda District), Chota Nagpur (Surguja)

Found in the hills, widely distributed but nowhere common

118 *Liopeltis nicobariensis*.

Ablabes nicobariensis Stoliczka, 1870, J A S Bengal, **xxxix**, p 184, pl xi, fig 1 (Nancowry Haven, Camorta I, Nicobars; Calcutta), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 307, and Cat Sn Brit Mus n, 1894, p 285—*Liopeltis nicobariensis*, Wall, J Bombay N H. S **xxx**, 1924, p 865

Maxillary teeth 17–18, head not depressed, scarcely distinct from neck, snout not projecting, twice as long as the eye, nostril large, between two nasals, the posterior shield being much larger than the other and in contact with the preocular; no loreal, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 7th very large, temporals short, 2+2; genials subequal. Scales in 17 17 rows. V 192, C. 84, A 2

Hemipenis not known

Anterior half of the body reddish brown above, posterior blackish grey, head above blackish, the first three labials with yellow spots, a short broad yellow streak from behind and below the eye posteriorly to the angle of the mouth, a black collar, margined on both sides with an interrupted yellow band, of which the anterior is the most distinct, an indistinct series of blackish-grey dorsal spots, almost forming a dark undulating band, sides marbled and freckled blackish grey, this colour being separated from the upper brown one by a series of closely set black spots, which are partially conspicuous on the posterior part of the body, chin dusky, lower parts yellow with a vermilion tinge, each ventral with a large black spot near its outer extremity

Total length ♀ 440, tail 110 mm

The description of the colour is Stoliczka's. The type and only known specimen is now somewhat faded but is otherwise in a fairly good state of preservation

119 *Liopeltis rappi*.

Ablabes rappi Günther, 1860, P Z S p 154, pl xxvi, fig B (Sikkim, London); Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 307, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 282, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1909, p 351—*Ablabes rappi*, Shaw & Shebbeare, J Darjeeling N H S iv, 1929, p 31, Shaw, Shebb & Barker, J Bengal N H S xv, 1940, p 62—*Liopeltis rappi*, Wall, ibid xlix, 1924, p 865

Ablabes owenii Günther, 1860, P Z S p 155, pl xxvi, fig A (Sikkim, London).

Maxillary teeth 20-22, head somewhat depressed, snout projecting, twice as long as the eye, nostril large, between two nasals, loreal a little longer than high, 6 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 5th largest, temporals 1+1, the anterior usually very long, anterior genials longer than the posterior. Scales in 15 15 15 rows V 178-195, C 60-76, A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 7th caudal plate, the calyculate area occupies less than half the organ, the cups are smallest at the tip and gradually increase in size towards the spinose area, the spines are large and numerous and of almost uniform size except at the extreme base, where there are two very large ones, there is no fold

Brown above with small black spots and lateral transverse bars on the anterior quarter or third of the body, a broad black, light edged bar across the nape. These markings may disappear entirely in the adult, leaving the upper parts uniform dark brown in colour, lower parts whitish (yellow in life)

Total length ♂ 455, tail 115, ♀ 440, tail 110 mm

Range W Himalayas (Simla), E Himalayas (Nepal, Darjeeling district)

The Simla specimen was obtained by Stoliczka, and the locality given may be an error. The species has not since been obtained in the W Himalayas; fairly common in the Darjeeling District

120 *Liopeltis scriptus*.

Ablabes scriptus Theobald, 1868, J Linn Soc x, p 42, and Cat Rept Asiat Soc Mus 1868, p 49 (Martaban, Burma, Calcutta), Boulenger, F B I 1890 p 305, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 284—*Liopeltis scriptus*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1924, p 864—*Gongylosoma scriptum*, Cochran, Proc U S Nat Mus lxxvii (ii) 1930, p 30, Smith, Bull Raffles Mus No 3, 1930, p 56

Maxillary teeth 26-28, head somewhat depressed, scarcely distinct from neck; snout not projecting, not twice as long as the eye, nostril large, between two nasals, loreal very small, 8 supralabials, 3rd to 5th touching the eye, 7th largest, temporals 1+2 the anterior shield twice as long as the

posterior ; anterior genials shorter than the posterior Scales in 13 13 13 rows V 126-145 , C 87-98 , A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 7th caudal plate , it is very different in structure to that of the other species Extending the whole length of the organ are six more or less distinct longitudinal folds , the area between them at the distal end is covered with flattish, irregularly shaped, papilla-like structures , the folds themselves are composed of dense, sponge-like tissue through which project small spines ; the two most conspicuous folds border the sulcus

Light brown or greyish-brown above, the scales edged with black forming more or less distinct longitudinal lines and a series of small black spots on each side of the vertebral line , these markings present only on the anterior part of the body , a broad dark, light-edged bar across the nape lips yellow

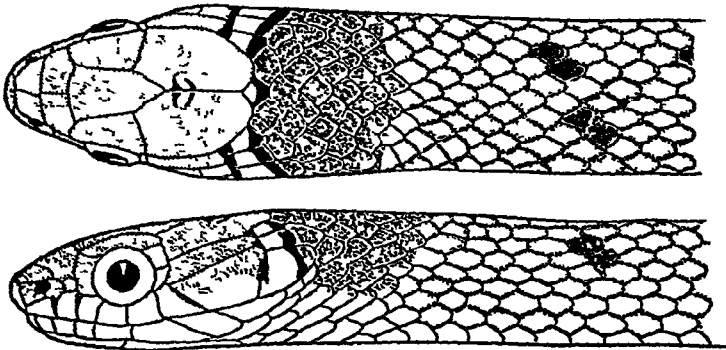


Fig 57 —*Liopeltis scriptus* (B M 1921 4 1 24)

with black spots, the yellow ascending as a vertical bar in front of and behind the eye , lower parts whitish or yellowish

Total length . ♂ 465, tail 155 , ♀ 495, tail 175 mm

Range S Burma (Martaban) , Siam (Sai-Yoke, Kanburi district , Khao Luang, Nakon Sritamarat Mountains , Pulau Panjang, I of Puket)

I know of six specimens

Genus CONTIA

Contia Baird & Girard, 1853, Cat N Amer Rept p 110 (type *mutis=tenuis*) , Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 255 , Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, p 162 , Werner, Zool Jahrb Jena, lvi, 1929, p 145 ; Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 769

Eirenis Jan, 1863, Arch Zool Anat Phys ii, p 256 (type *collaris*)
Pseudocyclophus Boettger, 1888, Zool Anz xi, p 262 (type *walteri*) ; Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 299.

The above synonymy refers only to the Old World species.

Maxillary teeth 12–20, subequal Head depressed, distinct or not from neck, eye moderate or large, with round pupil, nasal usually entire, loreal sometimes absent Body cylindrical, scales smooth or keeled, with apical pits, in 15–19 rows; ventrals rounded, tail moderate or rather short; subcaudals paired

Range South-western Asia, North Africa, North America
Ten or eleven species are known

Dwarfed, degenerate snakes, closely resembling the Oriental *Liopeltis*, from which, except for the presence of apical pits, they are generically indistinguishable

Key to the Species

Scales in 15 rows on the neck, C 63–82	<i>persica</i> , p 188
Scales in 13 rows on the neck, C 91–96	<i>mcmahoni</i> , p 189

121 *Contia persica*.

Cyclophis persicus Anderson, 1872, P. Z S p 392, fig 8 (Bushire, Persia, London), Blanford, Zool E Persia, 1876, p 408, pl xxviii, fig 1—*Pseudocyclophis persicus*, Boettger, Zool Jahrb 1888, iii, p 922—*Contia persica*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1893, p 263, Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 801, and xxix, 1923, pp 632 and 769, Ingoldby, ibid xxix, 1923, p 129, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, p 177
Contia angusticeps Boulenger, 1894, Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, p 262 (Cherat, Baluchistan, type lost), Annandale, J A S Bengal, lxxiii, 1904, p 208, Ingoldby, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 129, Wall, ibid xviii, 1908, p 501, fig , McMahon, ibid xiv, 1902, p 181
Pseudocyclophis walteri Boettger, 1888, Zool Anz p 262 (Nasrachs, N E Persia), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 300—*Contia walteri*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 263, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, p 173, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 632

Maxillary teeth 14 or 15, head not or scarcely distinct from neck, nostril in a single elongated nasal, internasals about as long as the prefrontals, frontals about $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the parietals, loreal usually absent, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, one pre- and one postocular, temporals 1+1, anterior genials much longer than the posterior
Scales in 15 15 13 rows V 185–216, C 63–82, A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 13th caudal plate, not forked, there are spines throughout, those at the extreme base being a little larger than the others Extending nearly the whole length of the organ there is a conspicuous fold

Pale buff or greyish-brown above, uniform or with darker markings, lighter below Head and nape with black cross-bars or entirely black above Young specimens may have the anterior half or two-thirds of the body above marked with narrow black cross-bars or with a reticulate pattern

Total length : ♀ 480, tail 112 mm

Range Sind, Baluchistan, N W F Provinces (Waziristan, Parachinar and Malakand), Persia, Transcaspia. Wall (1923, p 770) records it from Murree, W Himalayas

122 *Contia memahoni*.

Contia memahoni Wall, 1911, J Bombay N H S. xx, p 1037 (Baluchistan, Quetta), and xxix, 1923, p 771

Wall has described this species from 4 specimens which were in the Quetta Museum*. He states that it is nearest to *persica*, but differs in having more subcaudals (91-96), in having 13 scale rows anteriorly, and in coloration

"The body dorsally is nearly uniform light brownish, the scales basally rather darker and the head is of a duskier shade in the adult. In the young the head is black, but not quite so black as in typical *persica* and *walteri*. Under-parts uniform whitish"

Genus LYTORHYNCHUS.

Lytorhynchus Peters, 1862, Mon Acad Berlin, p 273 (type *diadema*), Boulenger, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xx, 1887, p 414, and F B I 1890, p 322, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 414, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 619, Werner, Zool Jahrb Jena, lvi, 1929, p 62

Chatachlein Jan, 1863, Arch Zool. Anat Phys ii, p 228 (type *diadema*)—*Catachlena* Blanford, P Z S 1881, p 678 (emendation)

Acontophis Günther, 1875, P. Z. S. p 232 † (type *paradoxus*)

Maxillary teeth 6-9, the last two longer than the others, and separated from them by an interval. Head slightly distinct from neck, with cuneiform, projecting snout, eye moderate or large, with vertically elliptic pupil, rostral large, projecting, angularly bent in profile, concave inferiorly; nostril an oblique slit between two large nasals. Body elongate, cylindrical, scales smooth, or feebly keeled, without apical pits, in 19. 19. 17 or 15 rows, ventrals obtusely angulate laterally, tail moderate or short, subcaudals paired

Range From N W India through Baluchistan and Afghanistan to Northern Africa. Four species are known; three inhabit India. Nothing appears to have been recorded of their habits

Key to the Species

- I. Rostral truncate anteriorly
 - Prefrontal single or divided *ridgewayi*, p 190.
- II. Rostral pointed anteriorly
 - Rostral not anchor-shaped, 5th labial touches the eye *paradoxus*, p 191.
 - Rostral anchor-shaped when viewed from above; eye separated from the labials by suboculars *maymardi*, p 192

* Lost when Quetta was destroyed by the earthquake in 1935

† Also made by him as the type of a new family, the Acontophidæ.

123 *Lytorhynchus ridgewayi*.

Lytorhynchus ridgewayi: Boulenger, 1887, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xx, p 413 (Chunklok, Afghanistan, London), and Tr Linn. Soc (2) v, 1889, p 102, pl xi, fig 1, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 415, Alcock & Finn, J A S Bengal, lxx (2), 1896, p 526, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916 p 111 Tzarewski, Ann Mus Zool Leningrad, xxii, 1917, p 88; Wall, J Bombay N H S xx, p 1037, and xxx, 1923, p 619

Lytorhynchus ridgewayi var *roseni*: Elpatjewski & Sabanejew, 1906, Zool Jahrb xxiv, p 257, pl 19, figs 6 & 7 (Nachdum, Transcaspia).

Lytorhynchus gabrielis Werner, 1938, Zool Anz Leipzig, cxxi (9-10), p 268, figs (Ziarat, Baluchistan not seen by me)

Rostral truncate anteriorly, as broad behind as in front, its posterior extremity separating the internasals for a short

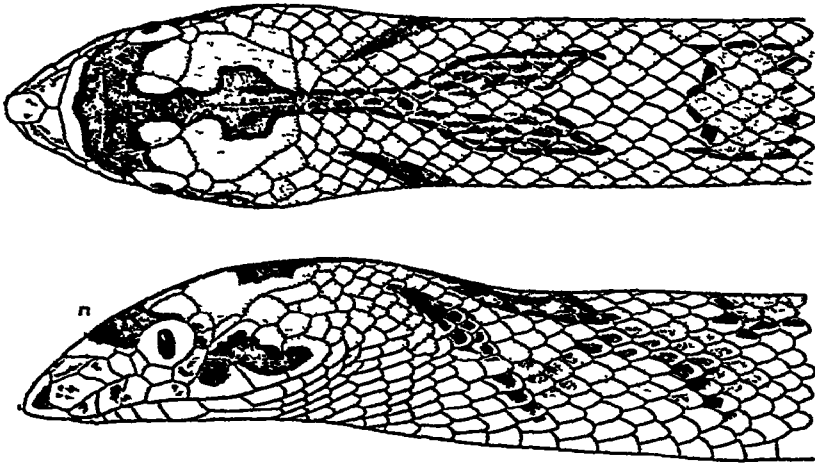


Fig 58—*Lytorhynchus ridgewayi*. (B.M 9 21 109 111)
n., nostril

distance; a pair of prefrontals, or the two united forming a single large shield, much larger than the combined internasals, frontal much expanded anteriorly, in good contact with the upper preocular; loreal usually single, 2 postoculars, 2 to 4 suboculars; these shields usually completely separating the eye from the labials; temporals irregular, 2 anterior, 7 or 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th below the eye, or one of them touching it, anterior genuals larger than the posterior, the latter completely separated by small scales Scales smooth V. 174-188; C 41-54, A 1.

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, not forked The distal half is calyculate, the cups having spinose edges; this area merges gradually into a spinose one, the spines at the base being shorter than the others

Pale buff or greyish above with a series of brown, black-

edged, squarish or transverse spots; sides less distinctly marked with smaller spots, an anchor-shaped marking on the head, the arms extending from one angle of the mouth to the other, passing through the eyes and crossing the frontal and prefrontal, the shank expands into a large spot on the middle of the parietals and bifurcates on the nape, lower parts uniform white

Total length · 500, tail 80 mm.

Range Baluchistan (Man, Gusht, Kacha, Sib, Kanki, Quetta), Afghanistan and Southern Turkestan to Transcaspia

Werner's *gabrielis* appears to differ from *ridgewayi* only in having two prefrontals, there is a specimen in the British Museum from Persia also with a pair of prefrontals

124 *Lytorhynchus paradoxus*.

Acontiphys paradoxa Günther, 1875, P Z S p 232, fig (N India, London), Murray, Ann Mag Nat Hist (5) xiv, 1884 p 110 — *Lytorhynchus paradoxus*, Boulenger, F B.I 1890, p 323, fig, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 416, Wall, J Bombay N H. S xlix, 1923, p 619

Lytorhynchus monticornis Werner, 1926, Sitz Ber Akad Wiss Wien, cxxxv, 3, p 243 (Sind; Vienna, not seen by me)

Rostral pointed anteriorly, rounded or angular posteriorly, separating the internasals for one-third of their length,

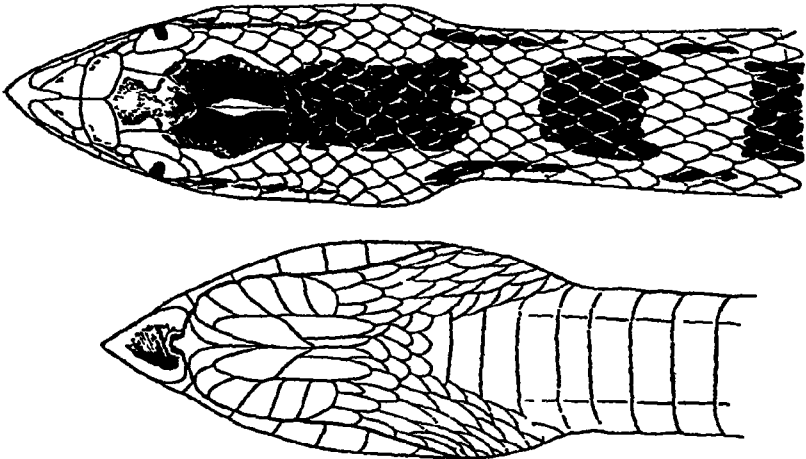


Fig 59 — *Lytorhynchus maynardi*.

prefrontals larger than the internasals; frontal expanded anteriorly, in contact with, or just separated from, the preocular, a small lower preocular and a presubocular; loreal single, 2 postoculars; 8 supralabials, 5th touching the eye; mental produced anteriorly, fitting into a depression in the upper jaw, temporals 2+2 or 2+3; posterior genials as long

as the anterior, the latter separated by scales Scales smooth.
V 169-180, C 40-53, A 2

Hemipenis apparently like that of *ridgewayi* (bad specimen)

Cream-coloured above, with a dorsal series of squarish or butterfly-shaped spots, and a less distinct lateral series of smaller spots on each side, a large rhomboidal brown spot on the back of the head, and a brown streak behind the eye, lower parts white

Total length 370, tail 60 mm

Range Sind (Zangipur), W Punjab (Multan)

Four specimens are known

125 *Lytorhynchus maynardi*.

Lytorhynchus maynardi Alcock & Finn, 1896, J A S Bengal, lxxv, p 562, pl 14 (S of Koh-Malik-do-Khand, Afghan-Baluchistan Frontier, Calcutta and London), Annandale, J A S Bengal, lxxiii, (5) 1904, p 208, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxxix, 1923, p 619

Rostral pointed anteriorly, anchor-shaped when viewed from above, the shank separating the internasals for half their length, prefrontals shorter than the internasals, frontal scarcely expanded anteriorly, not in contact with the preocular, 2 small preoculars, 3 postoculars and 2 suboculars, the latter completely separating the eye from the labials, a single loreal, temporals 2+2, 7 supralabials, 4th and 5th below the eye, mental produced anteriorly, fitting into a depression in the upper jaw, as in *paradoxus*, genials subequal, the posterior pair separated by scales Scales smooth
V 187-199; C 52-54 A 2

Hemipenis as in *ridgewayi*

Cream-coloured above and below, with a dorsal series of large oval or transversely placed spots of dark brown, a series of small paler spots on each side, alternating with the dorsal ones; a large elongated spot starting on the frontal, expanded on the parietals and extending on to the nape

Total length 400, tail 65 mm

Range Known from the type-specimens, three in number
One had eaten a Lacertid

Genus RHYNCHOPHIS.

Rhynchophis Mocquard, 1897, Bull Mus Hist Nat Paris, iii, p 215 (type *boulengersi*), Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 277, fig head, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 224, fig head

Maxillary teeth 19-21, the last 2 a little stouter than the others, head very distinct from neck, eye moderately large, with round pupil; snout terminating in a long pointed, flexible appendage, covered with small scales, nostril in the

nasal, or the shield partly divided Body elongate, slightly compressed; scales in 19.19.15 rows, smooth, with apical pits, ventrals strongly angulate laterally, the shields feebly notched at the angle, tail moderate, the subcaudals paired and angulate like the ventrals

A single species.

126. *Rhynchophis boulengeri*.

Rhynchophis boulengeri Mocquard, 1 c s (Isles de Norway Gulf of Tong-King Paris), Pope, 1 c s; Bourret, 1 c. s, and Bull. Gen Instr Pub, Hanoi, Feb 1939, p 21

Rostral distinct from the nasal appendage; internasals much smaller than the prefrontals, loreal longer than high: 1 large pre- and 2 or 3 postoculars; temporals 2+2 or 3, 9 or 10 supralabials, 4th to 6th, or 5th to 7th, touching the eye; posterior genials longer than the anterior, separated by small scales.

Green above, paler below, the interstitial skin on the sides of the body black (blue in life) and white, forming oblique lines; a white line at the lateral ventral keel, lips white, an indistinct dark stripe behind the eye A juvenile male is light brown in colour, paler below, with a dark stripe along the whole side of the head bordering the white of the upper lip

Total length ♀ 1135, tail 300 mm, length of the rostral appendage equals its distance from the eye

Range Tong-King (Is de Norway, Tam-dao, Bavi), S China (Kwangsi Province)

A rare species Its habits are arboreal Bourret (1939) mentions an individual caught on the verandah of a house

Pope, in spite of differences in the description, unites *Probosciphys versicolor* Fan from Southern China with this species

Genus CORONELLA.

Coronella Laurenti, 1768, Syn. Rept (type *lævis*=*austriaca*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 308, and Cat Sn Brit Mus II, 1894, p 188, Werner, Zool Jahrb Jena, lvi, 1929, p 125, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 287, Mertens, Copeia, 1937, p 70

Zacholus Wagler, 1860, Nat Syst Amphib p 190 (type *austriaca*), *Meizodon* Fischer, 1856, Abh Nat Hamburg, III, p 112 (type *regularis*); Bogert, Bull Amer. Mus Nat Hist lxxvii, 1940, p 46

Wallopis Werner, 1929, Zool Jahrb Jena, lvi, 1929 p 126 (type *brachyura*).

Maxillary teeth 12 to 20, increasing slightly in size posteriorly. last two largest and separated, or not, by a slight interval, head not, or slightly, distinct from neck eye large, with

round pupil, body cylindrical; scales smooth, with apical pits, in 19, 21 or 23 rows at mid-body, ventrals not, or obtusely, angulate laterally, tail moderate or rather short, subcaudals paired. Hypapophyses absent on the posterior dorsal vertebræ.

Range. Europe, Africa, north of the Equator, India, China. 7 or 8 species, one inhabiting India.

The characters which separate *Coronella* from its near relations (*Coluber*, *Oligodon*) are not well defined, and the position of the species in the genus is still disputed. Werner

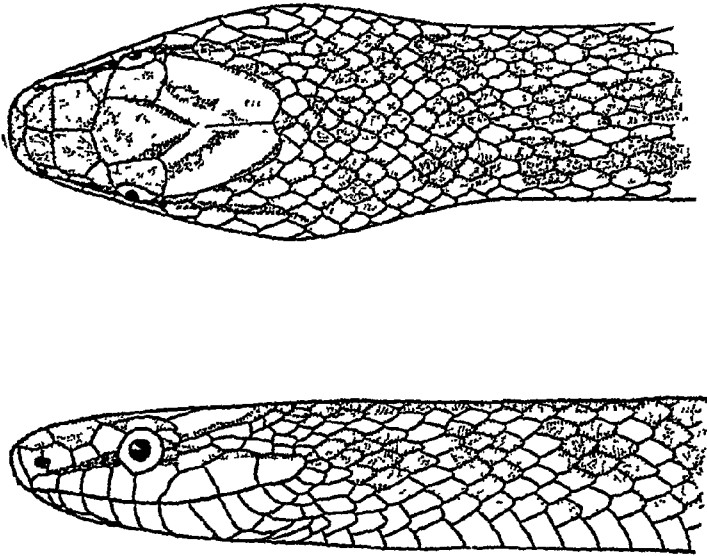


Fig 60 — *Coronella brachyura* × 3

(1929) divides the genus into three groups, namely, a Palearctic (*Coronella*), an Asiatic for which he proposes the name *Wallophus*, and an Ethiopian (*Mezodon*), the arrangement appearing to be based on geographical distribution rather than on morphological characters. Bogert has recently (1940) separated the Ethiopian species from the European ones, his reasons for doing so being based on the characters of the hemipenis. A comparison of his description of the organ with mine of *brachyura* shows that they agree in all essential details. I can see no justification, however, for separating *brachyura* from the European species and prefer to retain them all under one name.

127 *Coronella brachyura*.

Zamenis brachyurus Günther, 1866, Ann Mag Nat Hist (3) xviii, p 27, pl vi, fig A (Poona London), Blanford, J A S. Bengal, xxxix, 1870, p 372, Anderson, P Z S, 1871, p 176 — *Coronella brachyura*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 309, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 206, Wall, J Bombay N. H S xxx, 1923, p 625, Lindberg, ibid xxxv, 1932, p 695

Nostril large, between two nasals, internasals $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ as long as the prefrontals, frontal nearly as broad as long, in contact with a large preocular, loreal longer than high, 2 postoculars, temporals 2+2, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, anterior genuals larger than the posterior, the latter separated by two or three series of small scales. Scales in 23·23 19 rows, ventrals large, rounded; tail rather short V 200–224, C 46–53, A 1

Hemipenis extending to the 13th caudal plate, not forked. The distal half is calyculate, the cups being large and with scalloped edges; the proximal half is spinose, two or three spines at the base being much larger than the others (bad specimen)

Olive-brown above, with indistinct light variegations on the anterior half of the body and head, lower parts whitish

Total length. ♂ 515, tail 75, ♀ 450, tail 55 mm

Range Northern India. Poona district and Visapur, near Bombay, S E Berar

A rare snake

Genus OLIGODON.

Oligodon Boie, 1827, Isis, p 519 (type *bitorquatus*), Boulenger, F. B I 1890, p 317, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 233, Wall, J Bombay N H S xix, 1909, p 556, and Rec Ind Mus xxv, 1923, p 305, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 300, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 249

Simotes (not of Fischer 1817) Dum & Bib, 1854, Erp Gen vii, p 624 (type *russelli*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 309

Rhynchocalamus Günther, 1864, P Z S p 491 (type *melanocephalus*)

Holarchus Cope, 1886, Proc Amer Phil Soc xxiii, p 488, and Bull U S Nat Mus 1887, p 54, Stejneger, Herpet Japan, 1907, p 353, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 288 (type *formosanus*), Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 225

Tripeltis Cope, 1886, Proc Amer. Phil Soc xxiii, p 487 (type *brevicauda*)

Dicraulax Cope, 1893, Amer Naturalist, xxvii, p 480 (type *trinitatus* = *purpurascens*)

Maxillary teeth 6 to 16, the posterior very strongly enlarged and compressed; palatine teeth well developed or vestigial; head short, not distinct from neck; head shields normal or reduced in number; eye moderate, with round pupil · rostral

large. Body cylindrical; scales smooth, in all the species mentioned in this work; ventrals rounded or obtusely keeled laterally; subcaudals paired. Hypapophyses absent on the posterior dorsal vertebræ.

Common characters, for the well-developed forms. Nostril in an elongated nasal, partly or completely divided by a vertical suture, rostral large, extending well on to the upper surface of the snout, partly separating the internasals, loreal squarish, 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, 3 or 4 infralabials in contact with the anterior genials, which are $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 times as

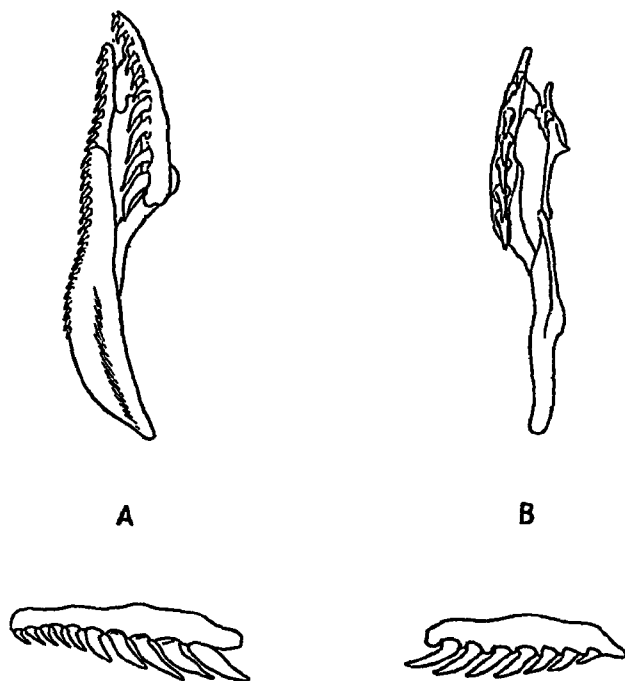


Fig. 61.—Palato-maxillary arch and maxilla of A. *Oligodon albocinctus*, and B of *O. catenata*.

long as the posterior. The typical head pattern is shown in fig. 62, with slight modifications the same head pattern is to be found throughout the genus.

Range. The majority of the species inhabit the Oriental Region, a few extend their distribution into the neighbouring islands of the Indo-Australian Archipelago, to southern China and Formosa, and to south-western Asia.

Between 50 and 60 species are known.

Wall, quite rightly (1923), has united *Holarchus* with *Oligodon*, the latter being only a degenerate group of the

former. The passage from one to the other is gradual and no dividing line can be drawn. Degeneration has led to reduction in the number, but not always in the size, of the maxillary teeth; reduction in the number and size of the palatine teeth, but in no species are they entirely lost, reduction in the number of scales round the body and in the number of labials; loss of the loreal by fusion with the prefrontal or posterior nasal; loss of the internasals.

As shown also by Wall, and later by Pope, the structure of the hemipenis in this genus can be correlated to some extent with other morphological characters, and it appears to form a sound basis for phylogenetic speculation. This is expressed in the table (pp 198-201). All the species as far as we know that inhabit the Peninsula of India have a spinose organ; most of those in the Indo-Chinese Region a non-spinose one. This difference, however, does not necessarily express phylogeny. Deep forking of the organ, as in the *cyclurus-formosanus* group, or the presence of a papilla-like process, as in the *teeniatus-barroni* and in the *torquatus-planiceps* groups, are I believe sounder evidences of relationship than the presence or absence of spines. The transition from the non-spinose to the spinose condition, or vice versa, is a comparatively small step, as shown in the *venustus-travancoricus* and the *dorsalis-erythrogaster-hamptoni* groups.

Not much has been written about the habits of the Oligodons. As far as is known all the species are oviparous, but I am not aware of any records of the deposition of eggs. *O. cyclurus*, the largest species of the genus, may have as many as 16 eggs (Wall); 3 to 6 is a more usual number.

As regards their diet the larger species have been known to eat small rodents, birds and lizards, but they do not appear to prey regularly upon them; as a genus the Oligodons are particularly fond of eggs, both avian and reptilian, and of the spawn of the amphibia. The smaller species, also, live largely upon insects, grubs and spiders. Meggitt records finding the stomachs of *O. cinereus* packed with insect remains. In disposition most of the species are quiet and inoffensive; *O. cyclurus*, however, in my experience is a most vicious creature.

Key to the Species of Oligodon.

Name	Sc	Max teeth	Vent	Caud	Anal	Lab	Hemipenis	Head shields	Range.
<i>cyclurus</i>	(23) 19-21	9-10	165-195	37-53	1	8	Deeply forked, no papillæ, no spines	Complete	N E India Indo-China
<i>chensensis</i>	(17) 17	9-10	170-190	55-60	1	8	Deeply forked, no papillæ, no spines	Complete.	China, Tong-King
<i>yuglandifer</i>	19	10-12	162-208	53-68	1	7	Deeply forked, no papillæ, no spines	Complete	E Himalayas
<i>macrurus</i>	17	13	143-152	76-83	1	7-8	As in <i>cyclurus</i> , no spines	Loreal present or absent	Annam
<i>formosanus</i>	19	10-11	165-182	46-52	1	8	Deeply forked, short papillæ, no spines	Complete	China, Tong-King
<i>ternatus</i>	17	14-16	146-169	30-47	1	8	Deeply forked, large papillæ, no spines	Complete	S Indo-China
<i>quadrilineatus</i>	19	14-16	147-167	33-45	1	8	As in <i>ternatus</i>	Complete	S Indo-China

<i>barroni</i>	17	13-14	135-160	32-44	1	7-8	As in <i>tenellatus</i> .	Complete	E Siam.
<i>albocinctus</i>	19-21	10-12	177-208	40-69	1	7	Not forked, papillæ, no spines.	Complete	Assam.
<i>melanozonotus</i>	17	8	171-173	42-45	2	6	Not known.	No loreal	Assam.
<i>epidendrius</i>	21	10-11	169-193	36-47	1	8	As in <i>cinerus</i>	Complete, 4 prefrontals	Burma.
<i>cinerus</i>	17-15	10-12	157-186	29-42	1	8	Not forked, papillæ, no spines	Complete	Indo-China
<i>joynsoni</i>	17	11-12	187-194	43-50	1	8	As in <i>cinerus</i>	Complete	N Siam
<i>woodmasoni</i>	17	8-10	180-190	46-57	1	6	Not forked, papillæ, no spines.	Complete or loreal absent	Andamans
<i>torquatus</i>	15	15-16	144-159	27-34	2	7	Not forked, papillæ, no spines.	Complete.	Burma.
<i>theobaldi</i>	17	15-16	164-180	30-42	2	8	Not forked, papillæ, basal spines.	Complete	Assam ; Burma.
<i>cruentatus</i>	17	14-16	148-173	27-40	2	8	Not forked, spinous 2/3 papillæ	Loreal some- times absent.	Burma.
<i>planiceps</i>	13	10	132-145	22-27	2	4-5	Not forked, papillæ, spines.	No loreal.	Burma.

Key to the Species of *Oligodon*—(continued).

Name	Sc	Max teeth	Vent	Caud	Anal.	Lab	Hemipenis.	Head shields.	Range.
<i>venustus</i> .	17	7-8	138-165	27-36	2	7	Not forked, founced, 1/3 spinose.	No loreal	W Ghats
<i>travancoricus</i>	17	7	154-155	34-37	2	7	Not forked, spinose fouunces throughout.	No loreal.	W. Ghats.
<i>tanuolatus</i>	15	6-7	153-218	29-56	2	7	2/5 forked, spinose throughout	Complete	Ceylon ; India.
<i>armensis</i>	17	8-11	164-202	41-59	2	7	Not forked, spinose throughout.	Loreal present or absent	India
<i>sublineatus</i>	15	6-8	134-161	23-37	2	7	Forked at tip, spinose throughout	Complete	Ceylon.
<i>calamarius</i>	15	7	127-152	20-34	2	7	Not forked, spinose throughout.	Complete	Ceylon
<i>erythrorachis melaneus</i>	15 15	7 or 8 7	154 152-160	46 39-40	2 2	7 7	Not known Not forked, spinose throughout.	No loreal Complete	Assam Darjeeling dist

	17	7	129-142	23-36	2	7	Not forked, spinose throughout. Not known.	No loreal. No loreal, no internasals.	W. Ghats.
<i>affinis</i>	17	7	129-142	23-36	2	7			
<i>brevicauda</i>	15	7-8	158-173	25-29	2	7			W. Ghats.
<i>latenata</i>	13	7	186-208	37-43	2	6	Not forked, spinose throughout. Not known.	No loreal, no internasals.	Burma.
<i>macdougalli</i>	13	—	200	39	2	7	Not known.	No loreal.	Burma.
<i>obsoleta</i>	16	0-7	162-188	27-51	2	7	1/3 forked, flouced, basal spinos.	Complete.	Bengal, Burma.
<i>erythrogaster</i>	17	7-8	169-186	42-59	2	7	Not forked, flouced, no spinos.	No loreal	E. Himalayas
<i>hamptoni</i>	15	7	160-175	30-32	2	5	Not forked, spinose flouces.	No internasals, loreals present or absent	Burma.
<i>lacroixi</i>	15	10-12	162-178	25-33+	2	5	Not known.	No internasals, no loreal	Tong-King.

128 *Oligodon cyclurus*.

- Coronella cyclura* Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 50 (no type loc given - coloured sketch in Bodleian Library, Oxford) — *Simotes cyclurus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 311, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 219, and Ann. Mus Civ. Genova, (2) xiii, 1893, p 324. Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, 1, 1914, p 97, fig head, Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 780 — *Holarchus cyclurus*, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, iv, 1920, p 96
- Coronella violacea* Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 50 (Rangpur, Bengal, col sketch in Bodleian Library)
- Simotes bicaenatus* Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 217 (type loc unknown London)
- Simotes fasciolatus* Günther, l c s p 218, pl xx, fig B (Petchabun, S E Siam. London)
- Simotes cochinchinensis* Günther, l c s p 219, pl xx, fig C (Laos Mts, French Indo-China London)
- Simotes brevicauda* Steindachner, 1867, Reise Novara, Rept p 61, pl iii, figs 13, 14 (Cochin China Vienna)
- Simotes albocinctus* var *dorsolateralis* Wall, 1910, J Bombay N. H S, xix, p 898 (Jalpaiguri dist. no type selected)
- Oligodon purpurascens* (*non* Schlegel), Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 631, and xxx, 1925, p 815, and xxxi, 1926, p 563, and Rec Ind Mus xxv, 1923, p 328, Smith, Bull Raffles Mus No 3, 1930, p 53, Shaw & others, J Bengal N H S xiv, 1940, p 144 — *Holarchus purpurascens*, Cochran, Proc U S Nat Mus lxxvii (ii), 1930, p 27
- Simotes smithi* Werner, 1925, Sitz Ber Akad. Wiss Wien, xxxiv, p 58 (Siam - Vienna), Smith, Ann Mag Nat Hist (10) 1, 1928, p 497
- Oligodon kheriensis* Acharji & Ray, 1936, Rec Ind Mus, xxxviii, p 519 (North Kheri Division, U P. Calcutta)

Normally 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, a small subocular below the preocular Scales in 19 or 21, rarely 17 or 23, rows V ♂ 161-185, ♀ 170-195, angulate laterally, C ♂ 42-58, ♀ 36-46 21 scales at mid-body is usual in specimens from Siam and the adjacent parts of Burma, 19 in other parts of its range, 23 occurs in two specimens from North Siam; 17 in two from Thua Lun, S of Hué, Annam

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, forked at the 5th, proximal to the fork there are a few large, irregular, convoluted folds or short, soft papillæ, distal to it are numerous, small closely set transverse flounces, these become finer as they approach the tip of the organ where they form calyces, the sulcus lips are very prominent, there are no spines

Total length ♂ 940, tail 140; ♀ 750, tail 120 mm

Range As given under the colour forms

Five colour forms can be distinguished. The first four intergrade completely with one another, the fifth is provisionally referred to *cyclurus*

I Brown above (reddish or pinkish in life), with dark brown or black reticulations which are confined to the edges of the scales; uniform whitish below, with or without dark squarish

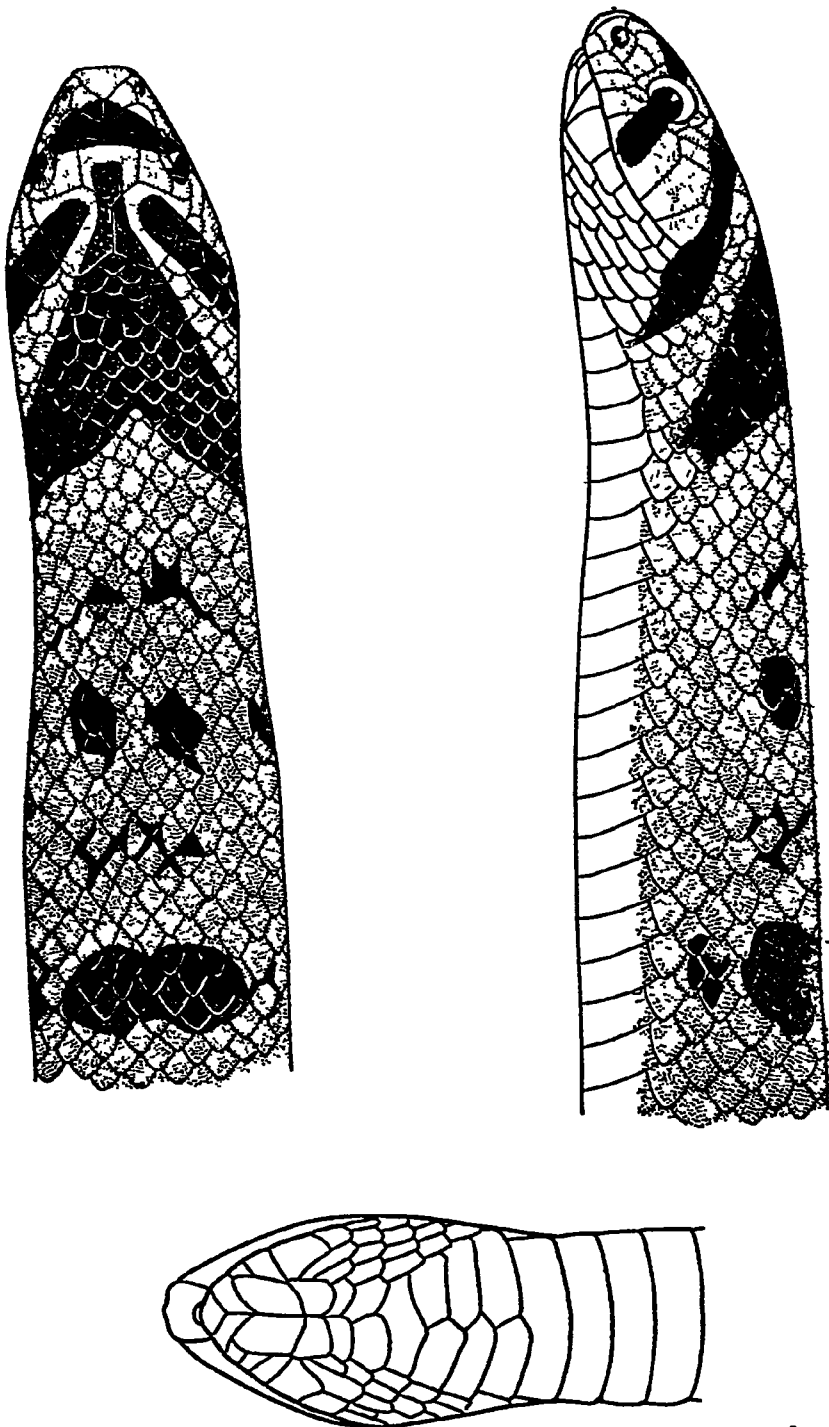


Fig. 62 — *Oligodon cyclurus*, Var III. Dorsal, lateral and ventral views of head and neck.

spots at the outer margins of the ventrals, head markings as in fig 62 but never so distinct (*cyclurus*; *bicatenatus*) (fig 63, A, B).

The whole of Burma and Tenasserim; Assam; Bengal as far west as Khaliganj, Rangpur district; Pulo Condore off the coast of Cochin-China

II Fawn or buff-coloured above (reddish or pinkish in life), whitish below. This form, which is only an immaculate variety of Form I, may be found in any part of Tenasserim, Burma and Assam. Here I place Cantor's *violaceus* from Bengal, and also Acharji & Ray's *kheriensis* from the United Provinces. The latter, known only from a single individual, represents the extreme western range of the species. Commenting on Forms I and II, Wall states "A fine series of 20 from Maymyo exhibit a wonderful variety in colour and markings... ranging from a ground colour like a boiled prawn through ruddy browns to a deep cigar brown"

III Above with a dorsal series of large blackish or dark brown black edged spots, 9 to 18+2 to 4 in number, usually placed transversely, and separated by 3 more or less distinct dark cross-bars, the colour of which is confined to the edges of the scales (fig 63, D); belly usually unspotted in specimens from Siam, spotted in those from other parts of its range (*cochinchinensis*: *brevicauda*. *smithi*).

The type of *fasciolatus* is intermediate between this form and Form I (fig. 63, C).

Siam as far south as lat 11° 15' N. and the adjacent parts of Burma, Cambodia, Cochin-China; Annam (Langbian plateau; Tourane)

IV Like I or II in dorsal markings with in addition four dark brown longitudinal stripes, 2 to 2½ scales wide, one on each side of the vertebral line, and a narrower and less distinct one on scale rows 3 and 4; belly uniform or spotted (*dorso-lateralis*)

North Siam; the whole of Burma and Assam.

V. Light brown above with indistinct darker cross-bars and with 12+3 conspicuous white, black-edged cross-bars, which narrow on the side of the body; whitish below with squarish spots at the outer margins of the ventrals. This form is referred provisionally to *cyclurus*; it is a juvenile from Maymyo, Burma, and has 19 scales at mid-body. V. 172; C 50, the first 6 of which are undivided. It was presented by Col Wall to the British Museum in 1924, but does not appear to have been described (fig. 63, E)

O. cyclurus is a fairly common snake in many parts of southern Indo-China, inhabiting the plains, and hills at low altitudes.

Cantor's type of *violaceus* was said to have 196 ventrals, a higher count than any recorded for that species, and to have come from Rangpur in Bengal, a locality outside its known range. It was described as being "reddish-violet, the scales

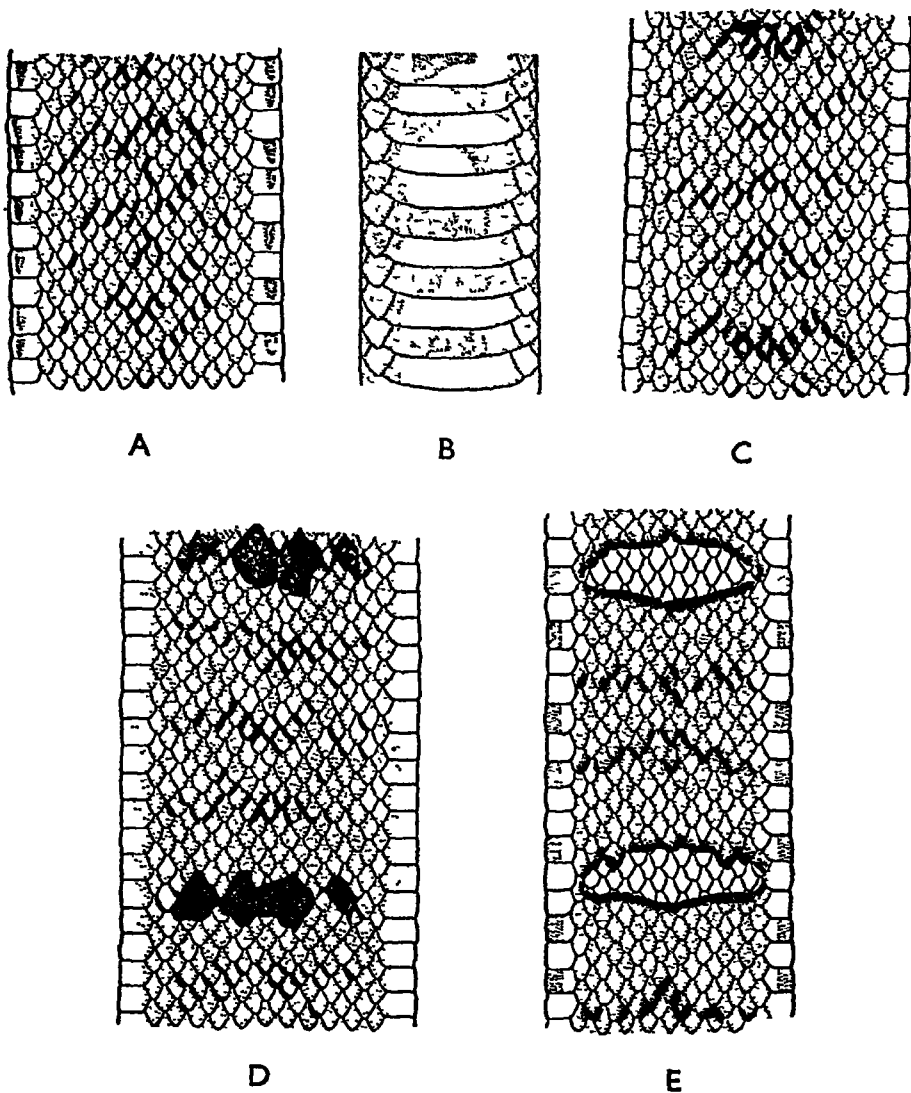


Fig 63—*Oligodon cyclurus*. A Var. I, dorsal pattern, B Var I, ventral pattern, C Dorsal pattern of the type of *fasciolatus*, D. Var. III, dorsal pattern, E Var V, dorsal pattern

edged with white, pearl coloured underneath " There can be little doubt I think that Cantor had before him the immaculate form (Form II) of *cyclurus* This form has not been met with at Rangpur, but I have examined three specimens of Form I from that locality

Examination of the hemipenis of *purpurascens* from the Malay Peninsula shows that it is not conspecific with *cyclurus*, its organ having large papilla-like processes and approximating to that which is to be found in the *tæniatus* group As I have stated elsewhere (Bull Raffles Mus 1930), the range of *purpurascens* in the Malay Peninsula does not extend north of Patani, between that locality and the southernmost range of *cyclurus*, lat $11^{\circ} 15'$, there is an area of country some 300 miles in length from north to south in which no member of the genus *Oligodon* has yet been found

Simotes obscurus and *S. crassus*, both of Theobald, Cat Rept Asiat Soc Mus. 1868, p 48, type-localities unknown, both in Calcutta, must, on the character of their hemipenes, be referred to *purpurascens*

129 *Oligodon chinensis*.

Simotes chinensis Günther, 1888, Ann Mag Nat Hist (6) 1, p 16 (Lushan, Kiangsai London), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus II, 1894, p 228, pl ix, fig 1—*Holarchus chinensis*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 291, pl xi, figs F, G, H, I
Simotes longicauda Boulenger, 1903, Ann Mag Nat Hist (7) xi, p 351 (Man-son Mts, Tong-King London)
Holarchus violaceus longicauda (non Boulenger) Bourret, 1936, Serp Indo-Chine, p 239

Like *cyclurus* in general scalation and size, but with only 17 scale-rows, usually no subocular, and usually only 1 anterior temporal

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, forked at the 5th, for the greater part of its length it has numerous small, closely set, obliquely placed fimbriae which at the extreme tip of the organ form calyces, starting from near the fork and extending to near the tip there is a prominent diagonal ridge which has a free proximal end, this free end possibly foreshadows the papilla-like process which is developed strongly in the *cinereus* and *tæniatus* groups, there are no spines

Coloration as in *cyclurus* Form III, but the dorsal spots constantly narrower.

Range A Chinese species that just extends its range into the Indo-Chinese region (Hanan, Tong-King)

130 *Oligodon juglandifer*.

Simotes albocinctus var. *juglandifer* Wall, 1909, J. Bombay N. H. S. xix, p. 349—*Simotes juglandifer*, Wall, *ibid* xx, 1911, p. 1162 (Tindharia, Darjeeling dist.)—*Oligodon juglandifer*, Wall, *ibid* xxix, 1923, p. 630, and Rec Ind. Mus. xxv, 1923, p. 327

The type of *juglandifer*, said to be in the British Museum, cannot now be traced, but I have examined two specimens identified by Wall and now in the Indian Museum. They are from Gopaldhara, Darjeeling district.

In general proportions and scalation, in the character of the hemipenis and in coloration, like *cyclurus*, differing in having more maxillary teeth, 7 supralabials, the 4th or 3rd and 4th touching the eye, the 6th in one specimen excluded from the labial border, and in having a higher ventral and subcaudal count (*vide* Wall). Colour pattern as in *cyclurus*, Form III.

Range Known with certainty only from the Darjeeling district.

My reasons for placing this species in the *cyclurus* group and not with *albocinctus* are given in the Key.

131 *Oligodon macrurus*.

Simotes violaceus macrurus Angel, 1927, Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris, xxxii, p. 497 (Pointe Lagan, Southern Annam, Paris)—*Holarchus violaceus macrurus*, Bourret, Serp. Indo-Chine, 1936, p. 238.

Loreal present or absent; a small subocular below the preocular present or absent, 7 or 8 supralabials, 3rd and 4th, or 4th and 5th touching the eye; 1 anterior temporal. Scales in 17 rows. V 143–152, angulate laterally, C 76–83.

Hemipenis extending to the 29th caudal plate, forked opposite the 6th, in structure like that of *cyclurus*.

To this species I refer a second specimen obtained by me from Nha-trang, S. Annam, just north of Pointe Lagan. It differs from the type in having no loreal, and no subocular, characters which in this genus are known to be variable.

In coloration it is light brown above with an indistinct reticulation of darker markings, whitish below; head with a dark stripe below the eye, another behind the mouth, and a wide-angled chevron, its apex continued forwards to the parietal shields, on the nape.

Total length: ♂ 365, tail 115 mm.

132 *Oligodon formosanus*.

- Simotes formosanus* Günther, 1872, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) ix, p 20 (Takao, Formosa London), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 222, pl viii, fig 2 — *Holarchus formosanus*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 293, pl xi, figs D, E
Simotes hainanensis Boottger, 1894, Ber Senck. Ges p 133, pl iii (Hainan)
Holarchus nesiotus Barbour, 1908, Bull Mus Comp Zool Harvard, ii, p 318 (Tingan, Hainan - Harvard).
Holarchus formosanus violaceoides Moll, 1930, Sitz Ber Ges Nat. Fr Berlin, p 323 (Yaoshan, Kwangsi)
Holarchus formosanus brunnea Moll, l. c s (Yaoshan, Kwangsi).

Like *cyclurus* in general proportions and scalation, scale rows constantly 19, usually only 1 anterior temporal. V. 165-182, angulate laterally, C 46-52, for specimens from the Indo-Chinese region

Pope has given an excellent account of the peculiar hemipenis of this snake, and I quote his description in full. "The hemipenis is forked opposite the 6th to 7th subcaudal plates, while one branch extends to the 15th, the other to the 17th plate. There are no spines, but an extensive proximal area of cross folds or flounces that gradually merge distally into a much less extensive calyculate region, the calyces of which are shallow and smooth-edged. Beyond the point of forking, the sulcus is laterally asymmetrical, being bounded on one side by a raised lip, which, in turn, is backed by a prominent ridge, on the other, by a low, wide area of smooth-edged calyces. The ridge that backs the sulcus is flounced proximally, calyculate distally, and runs into a large papilla-shaped process at the tip of the organ. This process has a calyculate surface."

Coloration as in *cyclurus* Form I, namely, an indistinct reticulation of blackish transverse markings confined to the edges of the scales; belly uniform or spotted.

A Chinese species which extends its range into the Indo-Chinese region as far as Upper Tong-King.

133 *Oligodon tæniatus*.

- Simotes tæniatus* Günther, 1861, P Z S. p 189, and Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 216, pl xx, fig A (Cambodia London), Boulenger, Cat Sn. Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 227 (in part), Smith, J Nat Hist. Soc Siam, i, 1914, p 98, Barbour, Proc N Engl Zool Club, iv, 1909, p 70.
Simotes tæniatus var *mouhoti* Boulenger, 1914, J. Nat Hist Soc. Siam, i, p 70 — *Holarchus tæniatus mouhoti*, Cochran, Proc U S Nat Mus lxxvii, 1930, p 29, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 247

Eight supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye; a small

subocular below the preocular present or absent ; 1 anterior temporal Scales in 17 rows. V. 146-169, angulate laterally, C 30-47.

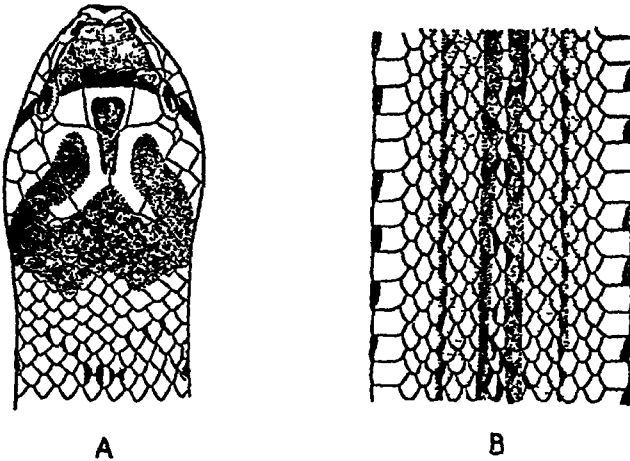


Fig 64—*Oligodon tæniatus*
A Dorsal view of head B Dorsal pattern

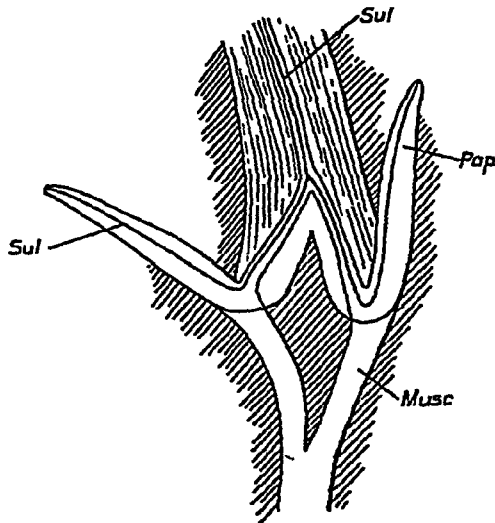


Fig 65—Plan of hemipenis of *Oligodon tæniatus* The papilla-like processes have been separated from the surrounding tissues
musc, retractor muscle, *pap*, papilla, *sul*, sulcus spermaticus

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, forked at the 5th, proximal to the fork it is calyculate or has coarse folds ; distal to it (in each fork) there is a smooth membranous

sheath which encloses a large elongate smooth papilla-like process, its free end towards the proximal end of the hemipenis, the sulcus spermaticus extends down the membranous sheath and then doubles backwards along the process to end at its tip, there are no spines. The two papillæ of each hemipenis are of equal length.

Brown above, with 4 dark brown longitudinal stripes, the dorsal pair edge the vertebral scales, which are pale in colour, the outer two, on scale rows 3 and 4, stop at the vent, whitish below (coral red in life), with numerous black squarish spots on either side of the ventral shields or united to form a median bar; head markings as in fig 64, a black spot above at the base of the tail, another near the tip, occasionally one or both may be absent. Four specimens from the neighbourhood of Saigon have a conspicuous yellow vertebral stripe and no dorsal spots on the tail.

Total length: ♂ 340, tail 60, ♀ 330, tail 45 mm

Range Siam between lat 12° and 16° N, Cambodia, Cochun-China

Common in the neighbourhood of Bangkok

Boulenger in proposing the name *mouhoti* (J N H S Siam, p 70) evidently overlooked Gunther's correction (1864) that the type of *tæniatus* had 17 scale rows and not 19 as first described

134 *Oligodon quadrilineatus*.

Simotes quadrilineatus Jan, 1866, Nouv Arch Mus Paris, II, p 7, and Icon Gen 1865, p 12, pl iv, fig 3 (Siam Paris in part)

Simotes tæniatus, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus II, 1894, p 227 (in part) — *Holarchus tæniatus tæniatus*, Cochran, Proc US Nat Mus LXXVII, 1930, p 28

Like *tæniatus* but with 19 scale rows and without black spots on the tail

Range the same

Common in the neighbourhood of Bangkok

The types of *quadrilineatus* are four in number; two are typical *quadrilineatus*, the other two *tæniatus*

135 *Oligodon barroni*.

Simotes barroni Smith, 1916, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, II, p 46, pl —, fig 4 (Sriracha, S E Siam London)

Holarchus tæniatus caudaensis Bourret, 1934, Bull Gen Instr Pub Hanoi, May, p 173 (Canda, near Nha-trang, S Annam Paris)

Seven, sometimes 8, supralabials, 3rd and 4th or 4th and 5th touching the eye, 1 anterior temporal. Scales in 17 rows V 135–160, angulate laterally, C 32–44

Hemipenis as in *tæniatus*

Light brown above with large dark brown, light edged spots, 10 to 12+3 or 4 in number, transversely arranged, they are more or less indented mesially, sometimes completely bisected, forming pairs, and confluent with a smaller spot on either side; between the spots are 3 more or less distinct cross-bars, the colour of which is confined to the edges of the scales; yellowish-white below (coral red in life), with large

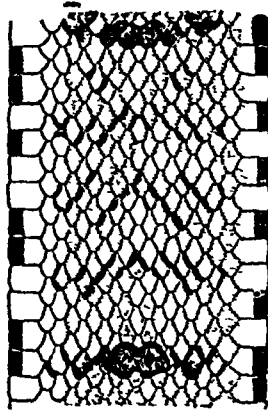


Fig. 66 —Dorsal pattern of *Oligodon barroni*

dark squarish spots placed at the sides of the ventrals; head markings as in *taeniatus*

Total length: ♂ 340, tail 60; ♀ 380, tail 70 mm

Range South-eastern Siam (Siracha district, Dong Rek Mts), Koh Lam in the Bight of Bangkok, S Annam

136 *Oligodon albocinctus*.

Coronella albocincta Cantor, 1839, P. Z S p 50 (Cherrapungi, Assam col sketch in Bodleian Lib.)—*Simotes albocinctus*, Boulenger, F. B I 1890, p 312, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 220, Annandale, Rec Ind. Mus. viii, 1912, p 48, Venning, J Bombay N H S xx, 1910, p 338, Wall, ibid. xix, 1909-1910, pp 348, 898, and xxii, 1914, p 756, col pl—*Oligodon albocinctus*, Wall, Rec Ind Mus xxv, 1923, p 326, and J. Bombay N H S xxxix, 1923, p 631, and xxx, 1925, p 815, and xxxi, 1926, p 563; Shaw & Shebbeare, J Darjeeling N H S iv, 1929, p 29, Shaw & others, ibid xiv, 1940, p 143. *Coronella puncticulatus* Gray, 1853, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (2) xii, p 389 (Khasi Hills London)—*Simotes punctulatus*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 217 *Simotes amabilis* Günther, 1868, Ann Mag Nat Hist (4) p 416, pl xvii, fig A (Arakan Hills London)

Seven supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye; 1 anterior temporal V 177-208, angulate laterally; C 40-69

Hemipenis extending to the 24th caudal plate, not forked - externally and upon its ventral surface there is a deep, li

annuous sulcus, which divides the organ partly into two for $\frac{1}{2}$ of its length. On opening the organ the following structures are seen —Proximal to the sulcus it is calyculate, the calyces being smooth-walled and rather irregular in shape, the distal $\frac{1}{2}$ have two narrow areas which are strongly flounced, they are separated from one another by the sulcus, the tip of the organ has smooth, longitudinal folds and a short pointed papilla, the base of which is attached to the tip of the organ. Two distinct colour forms can be defined, intergradation between them is rare.

I. Brown above (reddish or pinkish in life) with white, yellow or fawn-coloured black-edged cross-bars, 19 to 27 + 4 to 8 in number, belly whitish, with large black squarish spots at

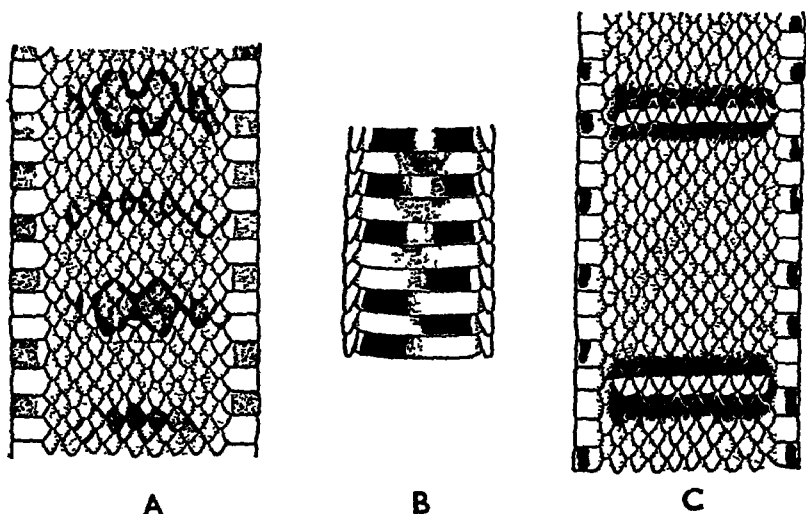


Fig 67 —*Oligodon albocinctus* A, B. Dorsal and ventral patterns of *forma typica* (B M. 1925 9.17-18) C Dorsal pattern of Var II (B M 80 11 10 138)

the outer margins of the ventrals, head light brown above, with the typical pattern. *O. amabilis* differs from this form in having 55 cross-bars, due perhaps to doubling of the usual number (*albocinctus*, *puncticulatus*).

II. Brown above with black or dark brown black-edged cross-bars; these may be simple bars, or large rounded spots, or with each spot longitudinally bisected. In this form the dark cross-bars may disappear entirely with age, leaving the upper parts an almost uniform brown coloration.

Range of both forms. The Eastern Himalayas as far west as Sikkim, Bengal (Rangpur, Kalgang); the whole of Assam; Chittagong province; Burma as far south as the Arrakan Hills.

A common snake in the Eastern Himalayas up to 5,000 ft. altitude, rare in Burma.

It is possible that Forms I and II are distinct species, but in the absence of any morphological characters by which to distinguish them, I have placed them together. As already

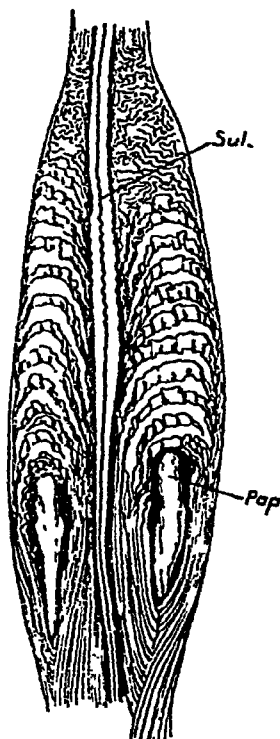


Fig 68 —Hemipenis of *Oligodon albocinctus*.
pap, papilla, sul, sulcus spermaticus

stated, intergradation, if it occurs at all, is extremely rare, nor can any geographical division of the two forms be made. The status of these two forms is closely paralleled by that of *O. taeniatus* and *O. quadrilineatus*

137 *Oligodon melazonotus*.

Oligodon erythrorhachis (non Wall), Annandale, 1912, Rec Ind. Mus vii, p 48

Oligodon melazonotus Wall, 1922, Rec Ind. Mus xxiv, p 29 (Upper Rotung Valley, Abor Hills. Calcutta and London), and xxv, 1923, p 320, and J. Bombay N H. S. xxix 1923, p 630.

No loreal, the prefrontal in contact with the 2nd labial, 6 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 1 anterior temporal. Scales in 17 rows V. 171-173, not angulate laterally; C 42-45

Light brown above with a series of whitish black-edged cross-bars, which in the adult are entirely black, whitish below with squarish black spots which sometimes occupy the whole of the ventral shield; head light brown or buff above with the typical markings, which are edged with black.

Total length 520, tail 85 mm.

Only 2 specimens are known, a juvenile and an adult, both of which are females

138 *Oligodon splendidus*.

Simotes splendidus Günther, 1875, P Z. S. p. 231, pl xxxiii ("Wynaad" London), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 310, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 217, Wall & Evans, J Bombay N H S xii, 1901, p 537, Vennmg, ibid xiii, 1914, p 164, Evans, ibid xvi, 1905, p 362, Wall, ibid xviii, 1908, p 781 — *Oligodon splendidus*, Wall, ibid. xxx, 1925, p 816, and Rec Ind. Mus ii, 1908, p 105, and xxv, 1923, p 331

Rostral thick and prominent, a pair of small shields behind the rostral, interposed between the internasals and prefrontals,

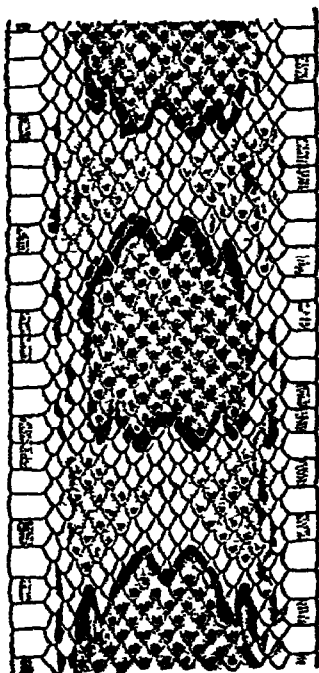


Fig. 69 — Dorsal pattern of *Oligodon splendidus* (B.M. 74.4 29 55)

completely separating the former; 4 prefrontals; 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye; a small subocular below the preocular, 2 anterior temporals Scales in 21 rows V 169–193, angulate laterally; C. 35–47

Hemipenis extending to the 19th caudal plate, characters as in *cinereus*

Light brown above, each scale with a dark centre, and with a series of large, dark brown spots, 14 to 17+3 to 5 in number, mesially indented in front and behind, these spots are edged with blackish and outside again with buff; flanks with a series of smaller spots, whitish or yellowish below, with dark brown spots on the outer margins of the ventrals, head spotted with brown, a dark chevron on the nape, its apex extending on to the frontal

Total length ♂ 710, tail 100, ♀ 730, tail 100 mm

Range Burma The Valleys of the Irrawaddy and Chinwin between lat 20° and 24° Found chiefly in the plains, not uncommon, according to Wall, in the restricted area in which it occurs

139 *Oligodon cinereus*.

Simotes cinereus Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 215 (Cambodia London)—*Oligodon cinereus*, Smith, Rec Ind. Mus. xlii, 1940, p 481

Simotes swinhonis Günther, 1 c s pl xx, fig E (Amoy, China London)

Simotes multifasciatus Jan, 1865, Icon Gen, Lav 12, pl iv, fig. 2.

Simotes semifasciatus Anderson, 1871, J A S Bengal, xi, p 16 (Naga Hills, Assam Calcutta)

Holarchus dolleyanus Cope, 1894, Pr Acad Nat Sci Philad. p 423, pl 10 (Hainan)

Simotes violaceus, (non Cantor), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p. 312, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 222, and Ann. Mus Civ. Genova, (2) xiii, 1893, p 325, Wall & Evans, J. Bombay N H S xii, 1901, p 618, Meggitt, Nature, 1931, cxxviii, p 413—*Oligodon violaceus*, Wall, Rec Ind Mus xxv, 1923, p 318, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 628, and xxx, 1925, p 814—*Holarchus violaceus*, Cochran, Proc U.S. Nat. Mus lxxvii, 1930, (ii) p 29, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 297, fig, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, iv, 1920, p 96

Simotes mornatus Boulenger, 1914, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, i, p 68 (Sriracha, S E Siam London), Smith & Kloss, ibid. i, 1915, p 245, Smith, ibid iv, 1920, p 96

Simotes violaceus pallidocinctus Bourret, 1934, Bull Gen Instr. Pub Hanoi, Sept, p 18, and Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 241 (Saigon Paris)

Holarchus violaceus tamdaoensis Bourret, 1935, 1 c s, April, p 265, and Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 239 (Tam-dao, Tong-King Paris)

Normally 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye; a small subocular below the preocular present or absent; usually 1 anterior temporal Scales in 17 rows, except in south-eastern Siam, where there are 15. V ♂ 151-175; ♀ 165-185, angulate laterally; C ♂ & ♀ 29-43

Hemipenis extending to the 14th caudal plate, not forked; the proximal end is calyculate, the calyces gradually merging

into a thin membranous longitudinally pleated area which contains two large spongy papilla-like processes of unequal length. there are no spines Pope (1935) has also given an account of the hemipenis. He stresses other points in its structure, but in substance our two descriptions do not greatly differ from one another.

Four colour forms can be distinguished, all, except Form IV, intergrading with one another.

I. Greyish or reddish-brown or pinkish above, without dark markings, belly unspotted or powdered with grey, or with indistinct greyish square spots at the sides of the ventral shields, head uniform brown above (*cinereus*).

Siam, as far south as lat $12^{\circ} 30'$ in the Peninsula, Tenasserim, Burma as far north as Toungyi, Cambodia.

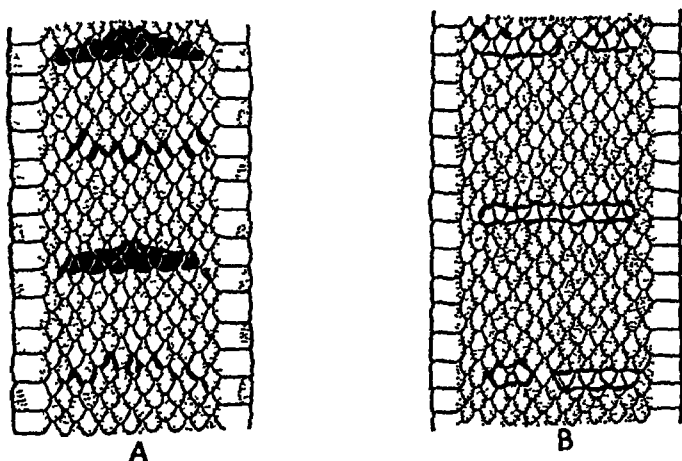


Fig 70.—*Oligodon cinereus*

A. Dorsal pattern of Var III (B M 1900 9 20 14) and B of Var IV

II The black edges of some of the scales forming more or less distinct dark cross-bars or reticulations, head uniform brown above (*multifasciatus*: *swinhonis semifasciatus*).

Siam and southern Burma, French Indo-China, Hainan; Hong Kong, Southern China.

III. Above with very distinct black cross-bars, alternating with one, sometimes two, indistinct ones, belly heavily marked with squarish spots at the outer margins of the ventrals, head markings very variable, in some only a nuchal chevron, in others a complete pattern of the typical form (*tamdaoensis*).

Bengal (Chittagong Hills); Assam; Burma, north to Sman Hka (lat $26^{\circ} 26' N$) and south to lat. 20° , Tong-King (Tam-dao).

IV. Greyish-brown above with whitish or light brown, black-edged cross-bars, 27 to 34+3 to 4 in number, belly uniform whitish or spotted with grey, nape with a dark chevron in the young, disappearing in the adult (*pallidocinctus*).

Cashin China (Saigon district), Thua Lun, S of Hué, Annam, Pulo Condore, S China Sea

Specimens from the extreme south-eastern corner of Siam (south of Petru) and eastwards to the adjacent territory of Cambodia, have only 15 scale-rows at mid-body, they may belong to colour form I or II (*inornatus*).

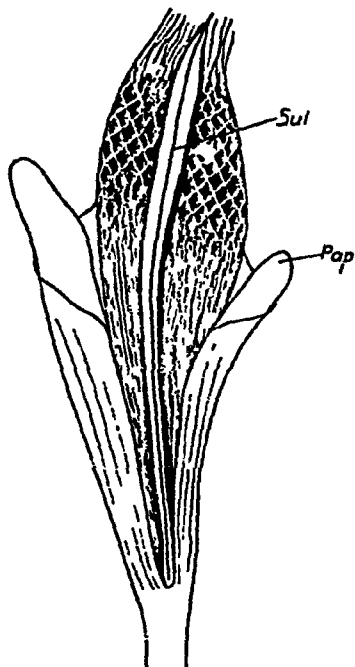


Fig 71 —Hemipenis of *Oligodon cinereus* The papilla-like processes have been separated from the surrounding tissue

O. cinereus (Forms I and II) extends its range into the Malayan region. It has not been met with in the Peninsula south of lat 11°, but has been found in North Borneo

Total length. ♂ 650, tail 95, Siam, ♂ 720, tail 100, ♀ 760, tail 75 mm. (Assam)

My reasons for discarding the name *violaceus* have been given under *cyclurus*, p. 205

Holarchus violaceus porlani Bourret, Bull. Gen. Instr. Pub. Hanoi, Dec. 1939, p. 26, from Dong Tam Ve, Central Annam, may belong here. Not seen by me

140 *Oligodon joynsoni*.

Simotes longicauda joynsoni Smith, 1917, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, II, p 276 (Muang Ngow London); Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 273

Eight supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye; a small subocular below the preocular present or absent; 1 or 2 anterior temporals Scales in 17 rows. V 187-195, feebly angulate laterally, C 43-50.

Hemipenis as in *cinereus*

Dark purplish-brown above with strong black reticulations forming more or less distinct cross-bars, each alternate one

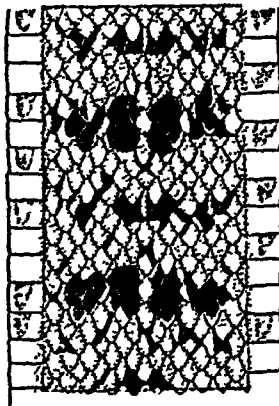


Fig. 72.—Dorsal pattern of *Oligodon joynsoni* (B M 1921 412)

with a black transversely placed spot, belly whitish (red in life), uniform or heavily marked with rectangular black spots, head with the typical markings

Total length ♂ 760, tail 105 mm

Range North Siam (Me Wang and Muang Ngow)

Known from 4 specimens

141 *Oligodon woodmasoni*.

Simotes woodmasoni Selater, 1901, J A S Bengal, LX, p 235, pl vi, fig 2 (Andaman and Nicobars Is Calcutta), Annandale, *ibid* 1 (7), 1905, pp 173, 175, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit. Mus II, 1894, p 223—*Oligodon woodmasoni*, Wall, Rec Ind. Mus XXV, 1923, p 325, and J Bombay N H S XXX, 1923, p 630

Loreal present or absent, 6 supralabials, 5th largest, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, or 3rd prevented by a small presubocular, 1 anterior temporal Scales in 17 rows V 180-190, angulate laterally, C 46-57

Hemipenis extending to the 16th caudal plate, not forked; the proximal $\frac{2}{3}$ is flounced, the folds being transversely arranged, and towards the tip form calyces; distally there are two large papilla-like processes of spongy structure, one nearly twice as long as the other, they are enclosed in a calyculate sheath; there are no spines

Dark brown or blackish above with narrow yellow longitudinal stripes, a vertebral and 3 lateral; ventrals whitish or yellowish, the central portion of the shield dark brown and with a dark spot at the outer edge, head with the typical markings
Total length : ♂ 620, tail 120 mm

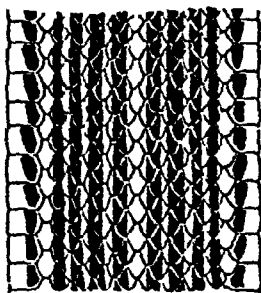


Fig 73 —Dorsal pattern of *Oligodon woodmasoni*

Range The Andaman and Nicobar Islands

I have examined three specimens

Very closely allied to the Malayan *octolineatus*, from which it is obviously derived

142 *Oligodon torquatus*.

Simotes torquatus Boulenger, 1888, Ann Mus Civ Genova, (2) vi, p 597, pl v, fig 1 (Bhamo London), and F B I 1890, p 316, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 232 —*Oligodon torquatus*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 626, and xxx, 1925, p 814, and Rec Ind Mus xxv, 1923, p 309

Seven supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 1 anterior temporal Scales in 15 rows V 144–159, feebly angulate laterally; C. 27–34

Hemipenis extending to the 8th caudal plate, not forked Want of material prevents a proper description of the organ, the proximal portion appears to be longitudinally plicate and at the extremity are two spongy papilla-like processes, there are no spines

Brown or greyish-brown above, with an indistinct reticulation of black and white, the colours being confined to the edges of the scales, and with 4 indistinct blackish longitudinal stripes or series of spots, 2 vertebral and 2 lateral; whitish below, with squarish black spots which are confined to the posterior part of the body, and may be almost absent, head with obscure blackish markings and a broad dark bar on the nape

Total length · ♀ 270, tail 30 mm. (292, Wall).

Range Found only in the hilly country of the Valley of the Irrawaddy between Myitkyina and Bhamo. A common snake at Myitkyina* (Wall)

* Pronounced Mitchnar

143 *Oligodon theobaldi*.

Simotes theobaldi Günther, 1868, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) 1, p. 417 (Pegu London), Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 315, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 11, 1894, p. 231, Wall & Evans, J. Bombay N. H. S. xiii, 1900, p. 349, Wall, ibid. xxiii, 1914, p. 170, Prater, ibid. xxvii, 1920, p. 175—*Oligodon theobaldi*, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxix, 1923, p. 628, and xxx, 1925, p. 815, and Rec. Ind. Mus. xxv, 1923, p. 322.

Simotes beddomi Boulenger, 1890, F. B. I. p. 314, and Cat. Sn., Brit. Mus. 11, 1894, p. 229, pl. ix, fig. 2 (Wynaad · London)

Eight supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 1 anterior temporal. Scales in 17 rows V 164–180, not angulate laterally; C 30–42

Hemipenis extending to the 18th caudal plate, not forked, the basal half of the organ is spinose, the spines being relatively

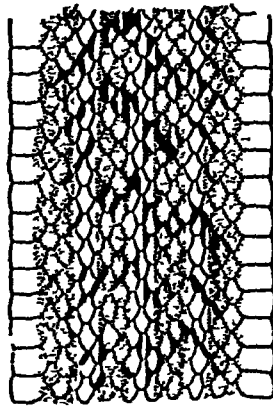


Fig. 74.—Dorsal pattern of *Oligodon theobaldi*
(B.M. 1925 4 2 36–39)

small and of uniform size; the distal half contains two large spongiform papilla-like processes

Light brown above with narrow closely set transverse or angular cross-bars, the colour being confined largely to the margins of the scales, and with 4 more or less distinct dark brown longitudinal stripes, 2 broad ones, one on each side of the vertebral line, and 2 narrower lateral ones on scale rows 2 and 3; yellowish below with or without squarish black spots at the outer margins of the ventrals; head with the typical markings

Total length: ♀ 390, tail 47 mm.

Range Assam (Tura and Garo Hills); Burma as far north as Myitkyina, and south to Mergui. Found in the plains and in the hills; Wall states that it is common at Mandalay.

144. *Oligodon cruentatus*.

Simotes cruentatus Günther, 1868, Ann Mag Nat Hist (4) i, p 417 (Pegu. London), Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p. 315, and Ann Mus Civ Genova, (2) xiii, 1893, p 325, and Cat. Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 231, Wall & Evans, J Bombay N H S. xiii, 1900, p 349—*Oligodon cruentatus*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 629, and Rec Ind Mus xxv, 1923, p. 317

Closely allied to *theobaldi*, normally 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 1 anterior temporal; loreal sometimes absent Scales in 17 rows V 148–173, angulate laterally, C 27–40

Hemipenis as in *theobaldi* except that the spinose area is larger and the spines gradually increase in size as they approach the base of the organ

Greyish-brown above with or without indistinct darker reticulations, and with or without 4 indistinct dark brown longitudinal stripes as in *theobaldi*, yellowish below with squarish black spots on the ventrals, tail in the young with 2 black annuli, one at the base and the other near the tip; in the adult these are confined to the under-surface of the tail; head in the young with a dark transverse mark behind and dark spots in front in the position of the typical pattern, in the adult they are almost or entirely lost

Total length ♂ 355, tail 55, ♀ 365, tail 45 mm

Range Burma between lats 16° and 20° N Wall records it from Mandalay and Bhamo, but I have not been able to trace the specimens

145 *Oligodon planiceps*.

Simotes planiceps Boulenger, 1888, Ann Mus Civ Genova, (2) vi, p 597, pl v, fig 2 (Munhla, Burma. Genoa), and F. B I. 1890, p 316, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 232—*Oligodon planiceps*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 626, and Rec Ind Mus xxv, 1923, p 307—*Holarchus planiceps*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 289

Rostral entirely separating the internasals, no loreal, 5 sometimes only 4 supralabials, 3rd touching the eye; 1 anterior temporal

Scales in 13 rows V. 132–142, angulate laterally, C. 22–27

Hemipenis not forked, spinose, with papillæ (*vide* Pope).

Brown above with an indistinct reticulation of darker markings, yellowish below, the ventrals and subcaudals with squarish black spots which are mostly confined to the outer margins of the shields, head markings as in *cruentatus*

Total length: ♀ 230, tail 22 mm

Range Lower Burma (Rangoon and Tharrawaddy districts). Four specimens are known.

146 *Oligodon venustus*.

Xenodon venustum Jerdon, 1853, J A S Bengal, xxii, p 528 (N Canara dist type lost) — *Simotes venustus*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 213 — *Oligodon venustus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 317, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p. 235, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxi, 1914, p 169, and xxvi, 1919, p 567, and xxix, 1923, p 630, and Rec Ind Mus xxv, 1923, p 319
Simotes binotatus Dum & Bib, 1854, Erp Gen vii, p 630 (Malabar dist. Paris)

Seven, sometimes 6, supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 6th often excluded from the labial border, no loreal, the posterior nasal elongate, sometimes meeting the preocular, 1 anterior temporal. Scales in 17 rows V 138-165, not angulate laterally; C 27-36

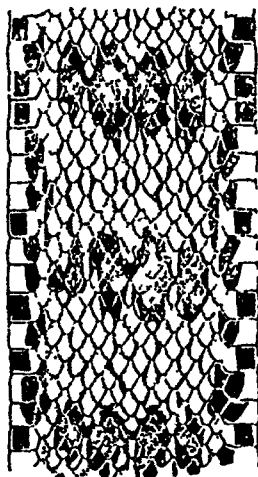


Fig 75 —Dorsal pattern of *Oligodon venustus*. (B M 88 1 27 44)

Hemipenis extending to the 9th caudal plate, not forked, the distal $\frac{2}{3}$ is fionced, the fionces being transversely arranged, they merge into a short proximal spinose area, the spines being relatively coarse and closely set

Greyish-brown above with large irregular oval, or rhomboidal, sometimes paired, blackish spots edged with lighter, sides with smaller spots; below yellowish or whitish with large black quadrilateral spots, the two colours in nearly equal proportions except under the tail where the yellow predominates, head with the characteristic markings, the outlines of which are more or less crenate

Total length ♂ 490, tail 65 mm

Range Western Ghats, south of the Goa Gap Wynaad; Nilgiri and Palni Hills, Cochin, Travancore Not uncommon in the Wynaad between 5,000 and 6,000 ft altitude

147. *Oligodon travancoricus*.

Oligodon travancoricum Beddome, 1877, P. Z. S. p. 685 (S Travancore Mts London) — *Oligodon travancoricus*, Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 318, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. i, 1890, p. 236, pl. x, fig. 2, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxii, 1914, p. 169, and xxiv, 1923, p. 629, and Rec. Ind. Mus. xxv, 1923, p. 316.

Very closely allied to *venustus* with which it agrees in scalation.

Hemipenis the same except that the flounces are edged with numerous small spines.

In coloration it differs in that the large paired spots are narrower and form more or less distinct transverse bars.

Total length: ♂ 450, tail 65 mm.

Range: Western Ghats, South of the Palghat Gap (High Range, Travancore; Tinnevely Hills).

148. *Oligodon tæniolatus*.

Russell, i, 1796, pl. 19, p. 24 (Vizagapatam).

Coronella tæniolata Jerdon, 1853, J. A. S. Bengal, xxii, p. 528 — *Oligodon tæniolatus*, Wall, Sn. Ceylon, 1921, p. 239, and J. Bombay N. H. S. xxix, 1923, p. 627, and Rec. Ind. Mus. xxv, 1923, p. 311. Prater, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxx, 1924, p. 171, Fraser, *ibid.* xxxix, 1937, p. 481.

Xenodon dubium Jordan, 1853, J. A. S. Bengal, xxii, p. 528 (North Canara: type lost).

Oligodon subgriseum Dum. & Bibr. 1854, Erp. Gen. vii, p. 59 (Pondicherry Paris) — *Oligodon subgriseus*, Günther, Rept. Brit. Ind. 1864, p. 207, pl. xix, fig. F, Jan, Icon. Gén. 1876, 48, pl. 1, fig. 3, Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 321, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. ii, 1894, p. 243, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xvi, 1904, p. 298, and xix, 1909, p. 556, pl. —, and xxvi, 1919, p. 568, and Sn. Ceylon, 1921, p. 239, and Rec. Ind. Mus. xxv, 1923, p. 311.

Oligodon spilonotus Günther, 1864, Rept. Brit. Ind. p. 207, pl. xix, fig. E (Madras and Malabar: London).

Oligodon fasciatus Günther, 1864, Rept. Brit. Ind. p. 208, pl. xix, fig. D (Deccan: London).

Oligodon ellioti Günther, 1864, Rept. Brit. Ind. p. 207, pl. xix, fig. G (Madras: London); Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 321, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. ii, 1894, p. 242, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xix, 1909, p. 533, and xxx, 1923, p. 627, and Rec. Ind. Mus. xxv, 1923, p. 313.

Oligodon subgriseus alternans Bethancourt-Ferreira, 1897, J. Acad. Sci. Lisbon (2), iv, p. 324 (Goa: Lisbon: not seen by me).

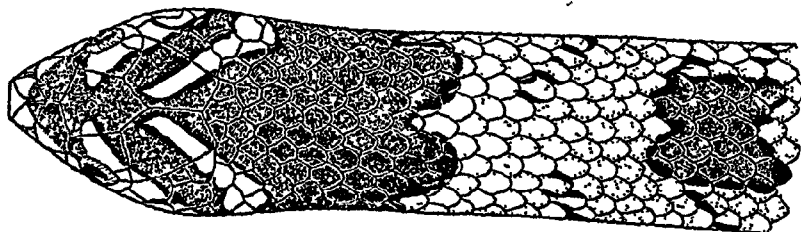
Oligodon tæniolatus var. *ceylonicus* Wall, 1921, Sn. Ceylon, p. 240.

Seven supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 1 anterior temporal. Scales in 15 rows. V 158–218, feebly angulate laterally; C 29–56.

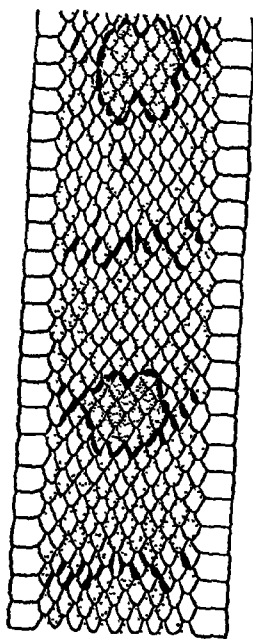
Hemipenis extending to the 11th caudal plate, forked for $\frac{2}{3}$ of its length; proximal to the fork the organ is spinose, the spines being relatively large and increasing in size as they approach the base of the organ; distal to the fork it is smooth with 4 longitudinal folds.

Five colour forms can be defined, all completely connected with one another, except Form V

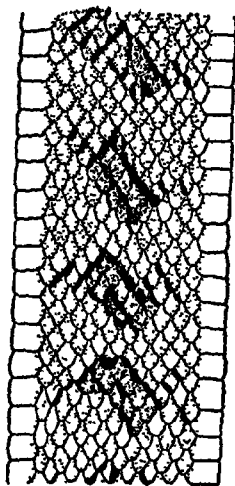
I Light brown to buff above with narrow black transverse cross-bars, the colour of which is confined to the edges of the



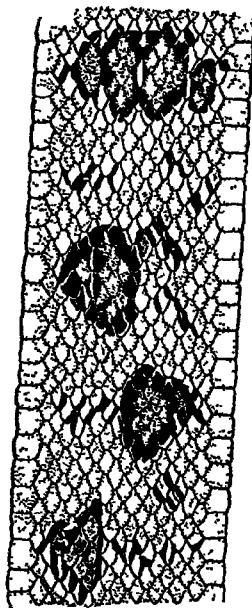
A



B



C



D

Fig 76—*Ohgodon tamiolatus* A Head of Var IV (B.M 74 4 29 12)
B Dorsal pattern of same C Dorsal pattern of Var II (B.M
69 8 28 148) and D of Var V.

scales, and with or without 4 dark brown longitudinal stripes, namely, 2 broad ones on either side of the vertebral line, and 2 narrower ones on scale rows 2 and 3; a whitish vertebral stripe present or absent, yellowish below with or without

lateral spots, head with the typical markings, but the pattern shows considerable variation. The dorsal colour pattern of this form is like that of *theobaldi*, fig 74 (*tæniolatus subgriseus*)

The whole of Peninsular India from Sind and Baluchistan in the N W to Bengal (Purnea) in the N E, Ceylon

II The cross-bars are enlarged to form transverse spots of irregular outline, they consist usually of a large median spot and two smaller lateral ones; they may or may not be edged with white (*dubius fasciatus ellioti*)

India, south of lat 20° N, Ceylon

III The dorsal spots are still larger and longitudinally elongate in shape; they are edged with dark brown and about twice as long as their interspaces; there are from 18–22 on the body

Nilgiri Hills, Madras district

IV With large, transversely placed, dark brown black-edged spots (14–16 on the body) usually indented mesially (*spilonotus*)

Western Ghats, Madras district

V With large dark brown rounded spots, these are edged with black and outside again with white. They may be paired or alternate with one another on opposite sides of the vertebral line (*alternans*)

Travancore, Malabar, Ceylon

Total length ♂ 450, tail 72, ♀ 590, tail 63 mm

Range As given under the colour forms

A hill species but occurring also in the plains; found frequently in the vicinity of human habitations

149 *Oligodon arnensis*.

Russell, 1796, Ind Serp i, pp 41 and 43, pls 35 and 38 (Vizagapatam and Arni, N Arcot)

Coluber arnensis Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool iii, p 526 (based on Russell's fig 38) — *Simotes arnensis*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 314, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 229, Abercromby, Sn. Ceylon, 1910, p 72, Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1907, p 115, and xix, 1909, p 532, and xxii, 1914, p 749, col pl xx — *Oligodon arnensis*, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 231, and Rec. Ind Mus xxv, 1923, p 324, and J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 629, Prater, ibid, xxx, 1924, p 170, Fraser, ibid xxxix, 1937, p 480

Coluber russellius Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vi, p 395, pl lxxvi, fig. 2 (based on Russell's fig)

? *Coluber moniticolus* Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 52 (Nepal col. sketch in Bodleian Library)

Simotes albiventer Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 213 (near Kandy, Ceylon London) — *Oligodon arnensis albiventer*, Deraniyagala, Ceylon J Sc, Ser B, xx, 1936, p 89

Seven supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, loreal

Range Ceylon, Peninsular India to Sind, Baluchistan and the N W F P (Bannu) in the north-west; the Western Himalayas to Nepal and Bengal (Kaliganj, Rangpur district) in the north-east

Variation The number of bars upon the body and tail, and their size, varies considerably; the narrowest are not much more than one scale wide, the broadest may occupy as many as 5 scales. This variation can be correlated very roughly with geographical distribution. Wall (1923, p 324) has attempted it, but his conclusions differ very considerably from mine. I arrange them as follows —

Ceylon, 13-18 on the body, 3-6 on the tail

India, S of lat 20°, 18-30 on the body, 4-16 on the tail.

India, N. of lat 20°, 7-20 on the body, 7-20 on the tail.

The loreal is usually present in specimens north of lat 20°, usually absent in specimens from South of that line and from Ceylon (*arnensis albiventer*)

Wall has given a good account of this common Indian snake and his colour-plate of it is good. It is found chiefly in the plains, but he states that it is common at Almora at 5,400 ft. It has been found also in other hill districts throughout India at varying altitudes. It is an active, voracious little reptile, easily alarmed and quick to conceal itself. Its habits are chiefly diurnal, and it appears to make its home for the most part in masonry, domiciling itself in bungalows and outhouses. He states that it can inflate its body to a remarkable degree when excited.

150 *Oligodon sublineatus*.

Oligodon sublineatum Dum & Bibr 1854, *Erp Gen* vii, p 57 (Ceylon. Paris) — *Oligodon sublineatus*, Jan, *Icon Gén.* 1876, p 48, pl 1, fig 2, Boulenger, *F B I* 1890, p 320, and *Cat Sn. Brit Mus* ii, 1894, p 242, Wall, *Sn Ceylon*, 1921, p 248, and *J Bombay N H S* xxix, 1923, p. 627, and *Spol. Zeyl* xiii, 1924, p 82, and *Rec Ind Mus* xxv, 1923, p. 314

Seven supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 1 anterior temporal. Scales in 15 rows. V 134-161, not angulate laterally, C 23-37

Hemipenis extending to the 14th caudal plate, forked near the tip, it is spinose throughout, the spines being almost uniform in size and regularly arranged

Brown above, the scales edged with black and white, and with a series of dark brown, more or less rounded spots or narrow cross-bars, which may be paired or alternate with one another, they are best marked on the anterior part of the body; lower parts yellowish with 3 longitudinal series of dark brown spots, the outer series often confluent with one

another, the median may be absent, head with a dark crescent on the prefrontals passing through the eyes, a median elongated spot behind it, and a large dark patch on each side of the neck.

Total length. ♀ 350, tail 40 mm

Range Ceylon South Prov (Galle); West Prov (Colombo, Matugama, Veyangoda), Sab'wa Prov (Ratnapura and Yatiyantota districts), Central Prov (Peradeniya)

One of the commonest snakes of Ceylon, found chiefly in the low country. One individual was obtained in a nest of termites

151 *Oligodon calamarius*.

Coluber calamarius Linn., Mus Ad Frid 1754, p 23 pl vi, fig 3, and Syst Nat 10th Ed 1758, p 216 ("America" Stockholm), Andersson, Sv Vet Akad Stockholm, 1898, xxiv, 4, 6, p 8

Oligodon templetoni Gunther, 1862, Ann Mag Nat Hist (3) ix, p 57 (Ceylon London), and Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 209, pl xix, fig C, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 320, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 241, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 245, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 627, and Rec Ind Mus xxv, 1923, p 315

Seven supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye. 6th usually excluded from the labial border. Scales in 15 rows V. 127-152 not angulate laterally, C 20-34

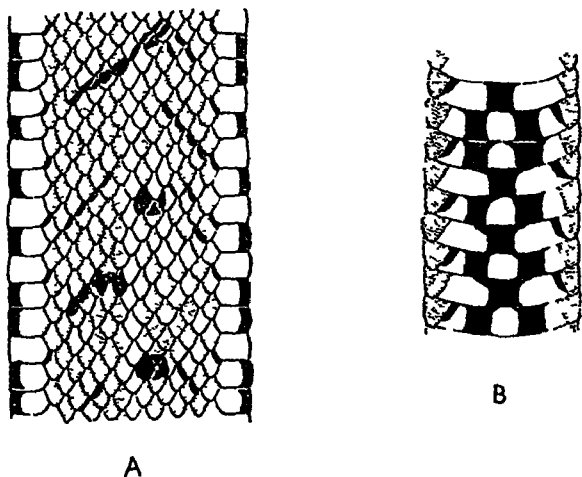


Fig 78—*Oligodon calamarius* (B M 90 11 8 23)
A Dorsal and B Ventral pattern

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, not forked, it is spinose throughout, the spines being closely set and almost uniform in size

Brown above, with a light vertebral stripe and from 18-24 narrow dark brown light edged cross-bars; these may be complete or extend only half-way across the back where they alternate with those of the opposite side; whitish below with square black spots, the two colours being distributed in nearly equal proportions; head markings as in *sublineatus*.

Total length · ♂ 250, tail 38 mm

Range Ceylon South Prov. (Udugama); West Prov. (Hewissa, Matugama), Sab'wa Prov. (Ratnapura, Balangoda); Cent Prov. (Peradeniya)

A low country species ascending to 3,000 or 4,000 ft. altitude

152 *Oligodon erythrorhachis*.

Oligodon erythrorhachis Wall, 1910, J. Bombay N. H. S. xix, p 923, pl — (Namsang, Jaipur dist, Assam. London), and xxix, 1923, p 626, and Rec Ind Mus xxv, 1923, p 309.

No loreal; 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye; 1 anterior temporal Scales in 15 rows V. 154, not angulate laterally; C 46.

Brown above with a light (red in life) vertebral stripe, and with 29 narrow, black, light-edged cross-bars on the body and 7 on the tail, yellowish below with squarish black spots at the outer margins of the ventrals and subcaudals; head with the typical markings, namely, a chevron across the prefrontals passing through the eyes, a broad oblique temporal stripe, and a narrow chevron on the nape extending forwards to the prefrontal shields

Total length : ♀ 375, tail 62 mm

Range Known only from the type-specimen.

153 *Oligodon melaneus*.

Oligodon melaneus Wall, 1909, J. Bombay N. H. S. xix, p 349, pl — (Tindharia, Darjeeling dist. London and Bombay), and ibid xxix, 1923, p 628, and Rec Ind. Mus. xxv, 1923, p 316.

Seven supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye; 1 anterior temporal Scales in 15 rows V 152-160, not angulate laterally, C 39-40

Hemipenis extending to the 15th caudal plate, not forked; it is spinose throughout, the spines being of almost uniform size

Blackish-brown above, the scales finely speckled with lighter, and with an indistinct series of distant black vertebral spots, dark plumbeous below, the lower surface of the head whitish

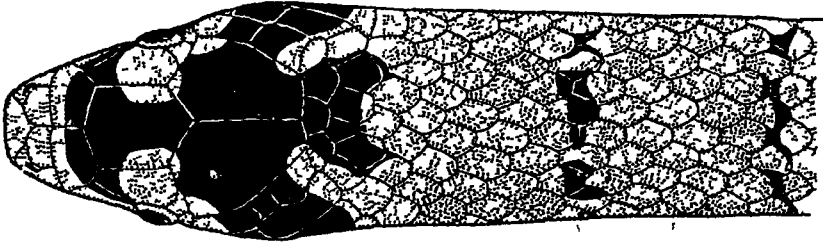
Total length · ♂ 330, tail 55; ♀ 300, tail 45 mm.

Known from two specimens

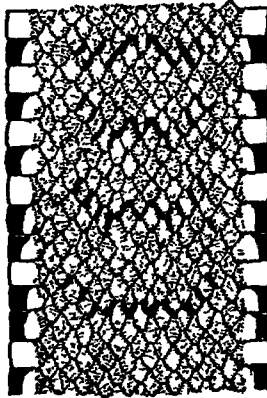
154 *Oligodon affinis*.

Oligodon affinis Günther, 1862, Ann Mag Nat Hist (3) ix, p 58 (Anamallays London), and Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 209, pl xix, fig B. Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 318, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 236, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxvi, 1919, p 568, and xxix, 1923, p 630, and Rec Ind Mus xxv, 1923, p 323

Seven supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, no loreal, the posterior nasal elongate and often touching the



A



B

Fig 79—*Oligodon affinis* (B M 74 4 29 10) ,
A Head B Dorsal pattern

preocular; 1 anterior temporal Scales in 17 rows V 129-142, not angulate laterally, C 23-36

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, not forked, the distal part of the organ has 4 longitudinal folds, two on each side of the sulcus the outer pair is segmented and bears minute spines, external to the folds there are flounces also with minute spines, the proximal part of the organ is entirely spinose

Brown above with an indistinct reticulation of darker markings and narrow dark brown cross-bars (31 to 41 n number) often edged with lighter, on the tail they are indistinct or absent, whitish below with squamish black spots, the two colours being almost equal, distributed, head markings as in the figure

Total length ♂ 340, tail 50 mm

Range Western Ghats, south of the Goa Gap (Wynaad to Travancore.)

155 *Oligodon brevicauda*.

Oligodon brevicauda Günther, 1862, Ann Mag Nat Hist (3) ix, p 58 (Anamallays: London), and Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 211, pl xiv, fig A, Boulenger, F B I 1900, p 319 and Cat Sn Brit Mus n, 1894, p 240, Wall J Bombay N H S xlix, 1923, p 628. and Rec Ind Mus lxxv 1923, p 311

Rostrial in contact with and partly separating the pre-frontals, no internasals, no loreal the posterior nasal

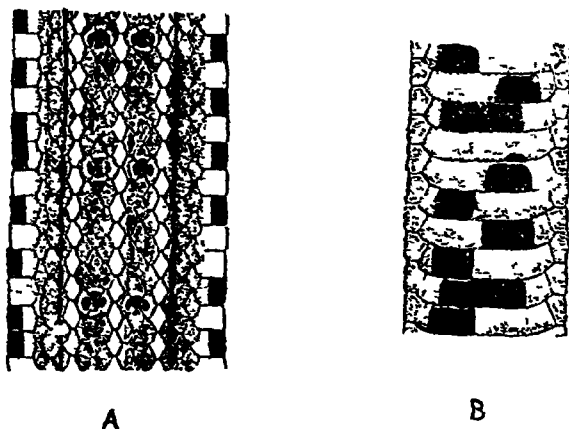


Fig 80 —*Oligodon brevicauda* (B M 61 12 30 84)
A Dorsal and B Ventral pattern

touching the preocular, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 1 anterior temporal Scales in 15 rows V 156-173, not angulate laterally, C 25-29.

Hemipenis not known

Brown above with a light vertebral stripe, bordered on each side by a dark brown or black stripe involving 2 scale-rows, these stripes may or may not be marked with paired series of spots or short bars on the anterior part of the body, a narrow dark lateral stripe on each side of scale row 3; brownish or whitish below (red in life) with large quadrangular or transverse black spots head with a crescentic band in front an oblique

temporal stripe, and a large dark nuchal patch usually connecting by a longitudinal stripe with the prefrontal mark

Total length ♀ 500, tail 55 mm

Range Western Ghats, south of the Goa Gap (Nilgiri, Anaimalai and Travancore Hills)

156 *Oligodon erythrogaster*.

Oligodon erythrogaster Boulenger, 1907, Rec Ind Mus i, p 216 (Nagarkot, Nepal, 6,000 feet: London), Wall, J Bombay N H S xiv, 1910, p 1000, fig, and xxii, 1913, p 639, and xxiv, 1923, p 629, and Rec Ind Mus xxv, 1923, p 321, Shaw & Shobbeare, J Darjeeling N H S iv, 1929, p 28, Shaw & others, ibid xiv, 1940, p 141

No loreal, the prefrontal in contact with the 2nd labial, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 6th not reaching the labial border, in the position of a lower anterior temporal Scales in 17 rows V 178-186 (163, Wall) not angulate laterally, C 42-59

Hemipenis extending to the 29th caudal plate, not forked, at the extreme base there is a short area with thick, smooth, longitudinal folds, the remainder has prominent flounces, transversely arranged, they are finest at the tip

Purplish-grey above, the scales edged with black, a light brown vertebral stripe bordered on either side by a greyish brown one of equal width, these two stripes being edged with black, another stripe similarly coloured on scale rows 3 and 4, 3 other narrower black stripes, 1 above it and 2 below, whitish below (red in life), the outer margins of the ventrals and subcaudals with black spots, more or less confluent with one another, head as in *hamptoni*

Total length - ♀ 450, tail 75 mm

Range Eastern Himalayas Nagarkote, Nepal, Tindharia, Darjeeling district Known only from a few specimens

157 *Oligodon catenata*.

Calamaria catenata Blyth, 1854, J A S Bengal, xxiii, p 287 (Assam type lost); Slater, ibid lx, 1891, p 233, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 282—*Oligodon catenata*, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 481

Oligodon herberti Boulenger, 1905, J Bombay N H S xvi, p 235, pl — (Mogok, Burma London), Wall, ibid xxviii, 1921 p 44, and xxix 1923, pp 467, 626 and xxx, 1925, p 813, and Rec Ind Mus xvi, 1923, p 308, Werner, Sitz Ber Akad Wiss Wien, cxxxiii, 1924, p 37 (Cambodia), Martens, Bull Antiven Inst iii, 1929, p 41, Angel, Bull Mus Hist Nat Paris, (2) i, 1929 p 79, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 252, and Bull Gen Instr Pub Hanoi, Feb 1939, p 22

Oligodon herberti var *eberhardti* Pellegrin, 1910, Bull Soc Zool Fr xxxv, p 30 (Taui dao, Tong-King Paris), Bourret, l c s 1939

No internasals, the rostral in contact with and just separating

the anterior end of the prefrontals which are very large ; no loreal, the prefrontal in contact with the second labial, 6 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 1 anterior temporal. Scales in 13 rows. V. ♂ 186-196, ♀ 179-212, not angulate laterally ; C 34-43

Hemipenis extending to the 7th caudal plate, not forked ; it has numerous longitudinal folds which bear small spines ; proximally there is a small area which is entirely spinose

Two colour forms

I Purplish-grey or brown above, with four dark brown longitudinal stripes, the median pair separated by a yellowish-brown vertebral stripe, the outer pair on scale rows 2 and 3 ; yellowish below (red in life), almost every other ventral shield with a black square spot at the outer end, tail almost immaculate, head markings as in *hamptoni* (*herberti*)

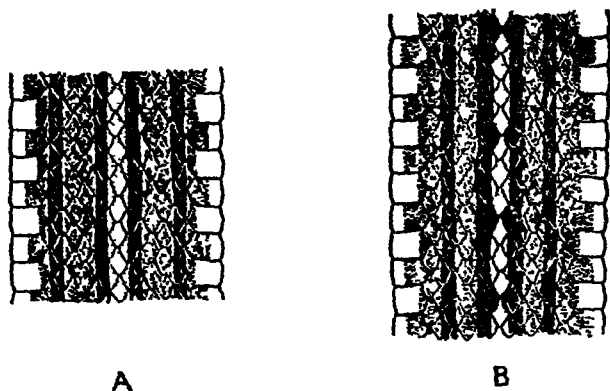


Fig 81—Dorsal patterns of *Oligodon catenata*
A Var I, B Var II

II. Like I, but the vertebral stripe formed by a concatenation of lozenge-shaped or sausage-shaped, black-edged spots, which may fuse with one another and form an irregular stripe (*catenata eberhardti*)

Total length ♂ 565, tail 75, ♀ 540, tail 68 mm

A larger female measures 580 mm in total length tail incomplete

Range Burma (Mogok, Bhamo, Kachin Hills, Nam Tamai Valley near the Tibetan border), Tong-King ; Southern China, Cambodia (*vide* Werner)

Form I is found chiefly in Burma, but Bourret, 1939, records it from Tong-King. All the specimens that I have seen from Tong-King belong to Form II. In Upper Burma, north of the Triangle and in the Bhamo district both forms occur, some individuals combine both patterns, having I on the fore-part of the body, II on the hinder part, or vice versa

I have not seen Wiener's specimen said to have come from Cambodia. Its description agrees with that of Form II (V 165)

Blyth's description of *calcinata* agrees so completely with this species that I have no hesitation in applying his name to it.

158 *Oligodon medougalli*.

Oligodon medougalli Wall, 1905, J. Bombay N. H. S. xvi, p. 251, fig. (Sandoway [not Sandarang], Burma, type lost), and xix, 1923, p. 626, and Rec. Ind. Mus. xxv, 1923, p. 308

No loreal, the prefrontal in contact with the 2nd labial, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye. Scales in 13 rows. V 200, not angulate laterally, C 39

Dusky black, with a reddish-brown vertebral stripe from nape to tip of tail, it is edged with small black spots most evident anteriorly. A black line on scale rows 2 and 3, ending at the vent, tail with 2 black bars, one at the base the other near the tip, head blackish with yellow markings on the snout and lips, nape with an incomplete collar, black below mottled with fawn

The type and only known specimen cannot now be found. The above description is compiled from Wall's original account

159 *Oligodon dorsalis*.

Elaps dorsalis Gray & Hardwicke, 1834, Ill. Ind. Zool. ii, pl. lxxxv, fig. 1 (Chittagong, London).—*Oligodon dorsalis*, Gunther, Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1858, p. 22, and Rept. Brit. Ind. 1864, p. 210, Anderson, P. Z. S. 1871, p. 168, Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 319, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. ii, 1894, p. 241, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xvi, 1908, p. 327, fig. and xix, 1923, p. 627, and Rec. Ind. Mus. xxv, 1923, p. 310, Vennung, J. Bombay N. H. S. xx, 1910, p. 338, and 1911, p. 772, Smith, Rec. Ind. Mus. xlii, 1940, p. 482

Seven supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 1 anterior temporal. Scales in 15 rows. V 162–188, not angulate laterally, C 27–51

Hemipenis extending to the 20th caudal plate, forked at the 14th, the greater part of the organ has strongly developed founces obliquely arranged, at the base are a few large spines

Dark brown to purplish above with a light vertebral stripe edged with black or with black spots, another black stripe occupies scale rows 2 and 3, lower parts black and yellow, the black predominating on the belly, the yellow on the tail, head dark brown with indications of the typical markings, tail with 2 or 3 large black spots above, the first on the base, the others near the tip, below orange in life

Total length : ♂ 415, tail 80 mm

Range Assam (Garó, Naga and Khasi Hills) · Bengal (Chittagong Hills), Burma, (N'Changyang in the Triangle, Chin Hills, Mansi, Katha district)

160 *Oligodon hamptoni*.

Oligodon hamptoni Boulenger, 1918, P Z S p 9, fig (Mogok, Burma London); Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1925, p 814

No internasals, the rostral in contact with, and partly separating, the prefrontals, loreal very small or absent, 5

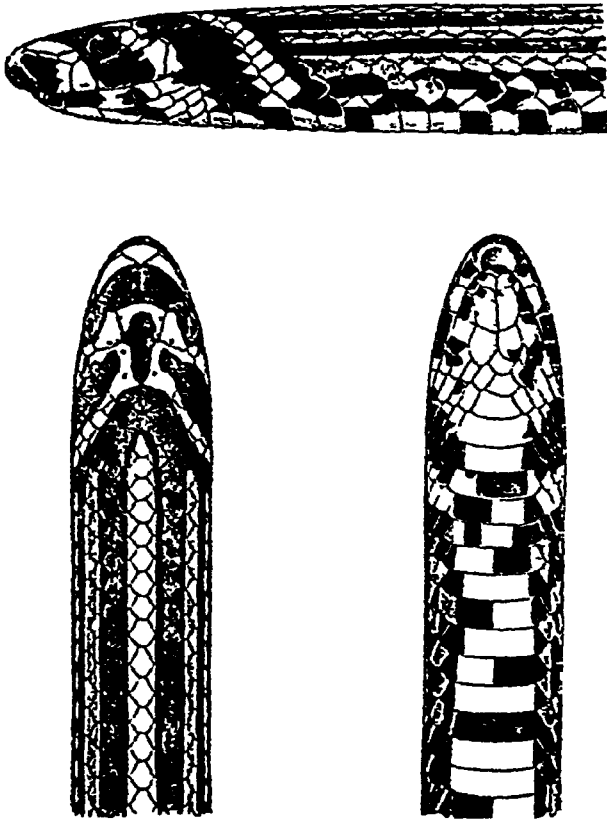


Fig 82.—*Oligodon hamptoni*. (After Boulenger, P Z S 1918)

supralabials, 2nd and 3rd touching the eye, 1 anterior temporal. Scales in 15 rows ~V 160-175, angulate laterally; C 30-32.

Hemipenis extending to the 11th caudal plate, not forked; the distal half is fimbriated, the folds being partly connected to

form large calyces, the lips of which have small spines, the proximal area is spinose, the spines being comparatively stout and of almost uniform size throughout

A broad yellow vertebral stripe, from the nape to the end of the tail, between a pair of reddish-brown, black-edged dorsal stripes of about the same width, sides bluish-grey, with two narrower dark brown stripes, the lower interrupted, head dark brown, with yellowish, crescentic markings as in the figure, namely, one across the snout, another on the top of the head, and two oblique ones behind which are interrupted on the mid-line; belly red, with black bars occupying a whole ventral shield or interrupted and alternating; lower surface of tail uniform red.

Total length: ♂ 590. tail 75 mm

Range Upper Burma Mogok (Ruby Mines); Sinlangaba (Bhamo district).

161 *Oligodon lacroixi*.

Oligodon lacroixi Angel & Bourret, 1933, Bull. Soc. Zool. Fr. lvi, p. 138 (Chapa, Tong-King Paris), Bourret, Serp. Indochine, 1936, p. 254, fig. head

Like *hamptoni* in general scalation. Loreal always absent. V 162-178, not angulate laterally, C 25+ to 33+, a good deal of the tail missing in the two examples examined by me.

Dark purplish-brown above, with a vertebral series of light (orange in life) rounded or transversely oval, black-edged spots, 11 or 12 + 2 or 3 in number, and with 4 indistinct, blackish, longitudinal stripes, the median pair bordering the vertebral series of scales, the outer on scale row 3. each vertebral spot occupies one scale and the adjacent edges of those that surround it, coral red below with black bars as in *hamptoni*, head brown above, with light (? red or pink) markings, namely, one covering the snout, a wide-angled A-shaped mark across the head behind the eyes and another and much narrower one behind it

Total length. ♀ 700, tail 80 mm, incomplete

Known only from the type locality.

Genus CALAMARIA.

Calamaria Boie, 1826, Isis, p. 981, and 1827, pp. 519, 539 (type *innæi*), Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 281, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. II, 1894, p. 330

Changulha Gray, 1835, Ill. Ind. Zool. II, pl. 86, fig. 3 (type *albiventer*), Mertens, Senckenb. XI, 12, 1929, p. 30

Typhlocalamus Günther, 1872, P. Z. S. p. 595 (type *gracillima*)

Maxillary teeth 8-11, equal, strongly curved. Head not, or scarcely, distinct from neck, eye moderate, with round

pupil; nostril pierced in a very small nasal, no loreal, no internasals; no temporals, the parietals in contact with the labials, preocular present or absent. Body cylindrical, scales smooth, in 13 rows throughout, without apical pits, ventrals rounded. tail short, subcaudals paired.

A Malayan genus of some 60 or 70 species, three of which extend their range into the Indo-Chinese region.

Small snakes of gentle disposition, usually found concealed under stones or fallen trees.

By Opinion 92, Oct. 1926 (Internat. Commission, Zoological Nomenclature), the generic name *Calamaria* was standardised, with *Coluber calamarius* Linn. as type. Andersson, however, in 1899 (Bihang Sv. Vet. Akad. xxiv (4), p. 8) has shown that the *Coluber calamarius* of Linnæus is an entirely different

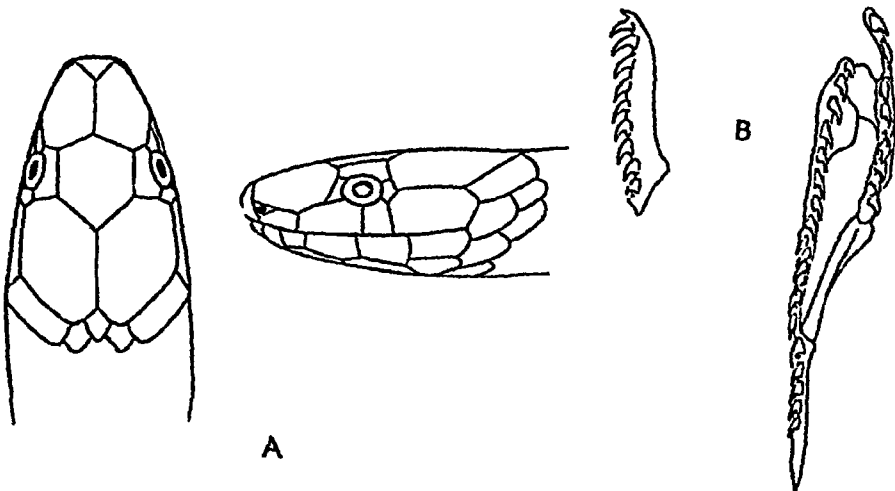


Fig. 83.—A Head of *Calamaria pavementata* (After Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890) B Maxilla and palato-maxillary arch of *C. uniformis*.

snake, namely, *Oligodon templetoni*, a species peculiar to Ceylon. An examination of Boie's paper shows that the snake which he made the type of his genus was an undoubted *Calamaria*, which he believed conspecific with the Linnean species, and he (presumably) renamed it *Calamaria linnæi* to avoid tautonymy. The type of *Calamaria* therefore is *C. linnæi*, the snake Boie had before him, and not the Linnean species, with which he thought it identical.

Key to the Species

1. Frontal longer than broad, tail ending in a point

Subcaudals ♂ 19-25, ♀ 10-14	<i>pavimentata</i> , p. 238
Subcaudals ♂ 30-34, ♀ 18-19	<i>uniformis</i> , p. 238
2. Frontal as long as broad, tail blunt. *septentrionalis*, p. 239

162 *Calamaria pavimentata*.

- Calamaria pavimentata* Dum & Bib 1854, *Erp Gen* vii, p 71 (Java Paris), Jan, *Icon Gén Ophid*, Liv 10, pl 1, fig 9, Boulenger, *F B I* 1890, p 282, and *Cat Sn Brit. Mus.* ii, 1894, p 348; Prater, *J Bombay N H S* xxvi, 1910, p 684, Wall, *ibid.* xxix, 1924, p 865, Pope, *Rept China*, 1935, p. 305, Angel *Bull Mus Hist Nat Paris* (2) i, 1929, p 76
- Calamaria quadrimaculata* Dum & Bib 1854, *Erp Gen* vii, p 73 (Java Paris)
- Calamaria siamensis* Gunther, 1864, *Rept Brit Ind* p 196, (S Laos, French Indo-China London).
- Calamaria pavimentata banaensis* Bourret, 1934, *Bull. Gen Inst Pub Hanoi*, May, p 174, and *Serp Indo-Chine*, 1936, p 272 (Bana, Annam · Paris)
- Calamaria pavimentata annamensis* Bourret, 1937, *Bull Gen Inst Pub Hanoi*, May, p 32 (Dong Tam-ve, Quang Tri Prov Paris).

Rostral much broader than high, well visible from above, the portion visible $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{2}{3}$ as long as the interprefrontal suture, frontal longer than broad, as long as, or longer than, its distance from the end of the snout. about twice as broad as the supraoculars, 1 pre- and 1 postocular, 4 supralabials, 2nd and 4th largest, 2nd and 3rd touching the eye; anterior genials longer than the posterior V 152–186 (196 in the type of *C p annamensis*), C ♂ 19–25, ♀ 10–14, A. 1, tail tapering to a point

Hemipenis extending to the 7th or 8th caudal plate, deeply forked and devoid of spines, it is smooth proximal to the point of forking but calyculate beyond, the calyces are pocket-like in shape and uniform in size, the edges are not scalloped, a broad longitudinal fold extends from the point of forking to the tip of the organ, the lips of the sulcus are smooth and moderately prominent (Pope).

Reddish-brown above, with dark longitudinal lines or series of spots, a broad dark bar on the nape edged behind, and usually also in front, with yellow; belly uniform yellow, or the ventrals edged with brown, two yellow spots at the base of the tail and two near the tip; in *C p. banaensis* there is a dark median line along the belly and tail. The above description applies to specimens from the Indo-Chinese region

Total length · ♂ 320, tail 15 mm

Range Widely distributed throughout the Indo-Chinese region, but nowhere common, extending in the north-west as far as the Tura and Chin Hills in Assam, Southern China, the Malay Peninsula; Java Found in hilly country.

163. *Calamaria uniformis*.

- Calamaria pavimentata* var *uniformis* Smith, 1921, *P Z S* p. 426 (Langbian Peaks, S Annam, 6,000 feet London)

Like *pavimentata* but differing in the higher caudal count,

the hemipenis and coloration. V. ♂ 143-149, ♀ 166-167 ; C ♂ 30-34, ♀ 18-19 (10 examples)

Hemipenis forked near the extreme tip, and without the longitudinal folds, but otherwise as in *pavimentata*.

Uniform dark brown above, yellow below, the ventrals with or without dark brown spots mesially arranged ; a median series underneath the tail always present

Total length · ♂ 315, tail 34 . ♀ 350, tail 30 mm

Range Known only from the type locality.

164 *Calamaria septentrionalis*.

Calamaria septentrionalis Boulenger, 1890, P. Z. S. p. 34 (Kioiang and Hong-kong : London), and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 11, 1894, p. 349. Parker, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (9) xv, 1925, p. 25 ; Pope, Rept. China, 1935, p. 306, pl. xii, figs. K-P ; Bourret, Serp. Indo-Chine, 1936, p. 272

Snout shorter and more broadly rounded than in *pavimentata*, rostral only just visible from above, frontal as broad as long, not longer than its distance from the end of the snout, tail blunt V 162-176 ; C ♂ 15-18, ♀ 8-10, A 1 (for specimens from the Indo-Chinese region).

Hemipenis as in *pavimentata*

Blackish-brown above, with three longitudinal series of small black spots, each scale of the outer row with a whitish spot, a yellow nuchal collar interrupted in the middle, and a pair of yellow spots at the base of the tail, lower parts uniform coral-red, with a black line along the middle of the tail.

Total length 320, tail 15 mm.

Range Tong-King (Thai-Mien, Cao-Bang), Hong Kong ; Southern China

Genus AHÆTULLA.

BRONZE BACKS

Ahætulla Link, 1807, Besch. Nat. Samml. Rostock, p. 73 (type *fasciata* = *Coluber ahætulla* Linn., in part)

Dendrophis Fitzinger, 1826, Neue Class. Rept. pp. 29, 30, and Isis, 1827, p. 519 (type *Coluber ahætulla* Linn., and in Syst. Rept., 1843, p. 27, *picta* Boie), Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 296, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 11, 1894, p. 77, Wall, Rec. Ind. Mus. xxii, 1921, p. 151, and J. Bombay N. H. S. xxix, 1923, p. 623 ; Meise & Henning, Zool. Anz. Leipzig, xcix, 1932, p. 273, and cix, 1935, p. 138 ; Stejneger, Copeia, 1933, p. 202 ; Mertens, Arch. Naturg. Leipzig, n. f. iii, 1934, p. 187

Dendrelaphis Boulenger, 1890, F. B. I. p. 339 (type *caudolineatus*), and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 11, 1894, p. 87, Mertens, Arch. Naturg. Leipzig, iii, (2) 1934, p. 187 ; Wall, Rec. Ind. Mus. xxii, 1921, p. 151

Tachyophis (non Rochebrune 1884) Mertens, 1934, Arch. Naturg. Berlin, iii, (2) p. 189 (type *Coluber pictus*)

Maxillary teeth 20 to 34, the posterior 3 or 4 slightly larger or slightly smaller than the others, head distinct from neck ;

eye large with round pupil ; loreal region more or less concave Body elongate, scales smooth, in 13 or 15 rows, all except the outer row narrow, with single apical pits, disposed obliquely, the vertebrales more or less enlarged, ventrals with a suture-like lateral keel, and a notch on each side, corresponding to the keel, tail long, subcaudals paired, keeled like the ventrals Hypapophyses absent on the posterior dorsal vertebrae, represented by a low keel

Common characters, unless otherwise stated —Nostril between two nasals, rostral broader than high, frontal more or less bell-shaped, as long as, or a little longer than, its distance from the end of the snout, loreal elongate, twice as long as high ; 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, anterior pair of genials shorter than the posterior, vertebral scales enlarged, originating on the neck by the fusion of two scales

Range The Oriental Region to Australia

With the exception of *grandoculis* and *caudolineolatus* all the Oriental species have a colour character in common The interstitial skin is black or blackish, this colour extending on

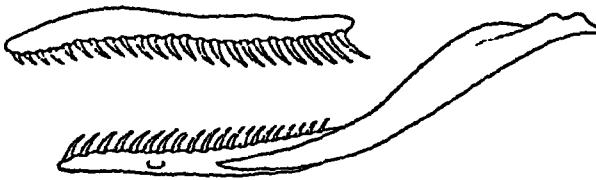


Fig 84 —*Ahætulla ahætulla*. Maxilla and mandible

to the margins of the dorsal scales, except those of the outer row, in addition, the outer margin of each scale, or alternate scale, has a light blue spot These markings are most evident on the anterior half of the body, and can be seen only when the body is inflated The black edging to the scales is variable in amount, and in some species can be seen at all times

The epitricheal scales are easily rubbed off in preserved specimens, the scales then being of a bluish-green coloration This alteration of the colour has led to occasional inaccuracies in description

The Bronze Backs are a genus of arboreal snakes, many of them of strikingly beautiful coloration They live entirely among bushes and on trees, only descending to the ground to search for food In their native haunts they can move with amazing rapidity. Their prey, which they hunt by day, consists chiefly of frogs and lizards, but they have been known to eat toads and sometimes insects That they can "fly" or plane as can *Chrysopelea ornata*, has not yet been definitely established From 3 to 5 elongated eggs are laid at a time, development of the young may have commenced before deposition.

Meise & Henning (1932) have recently reviewed the genus, reducing the number of species in it to eight, with numerous subspecies. After comparing their opinions with the Oriental material at my disposal, I find myself unable to agree with them on many points. The affinities of the species must, I believe, be sought for in the comparative enlargement of the vertebral scales rather than in the teeth, the difficulty of adequately expressing that enlargement in measurable terms, prevents its use as a major key character.

The genus is undoubtedly one of the most difficult of all the Oriental groups. Boulenger (1896), Wall (1921), Meise & Henning (1932) and Mertens (1933) have in turn revised it, and in turn have disagreed with one another, particularly with regard to the status of the forms related to *ahætulla*.

The *Coluber ahætulla* of Linnæus, as shown by Andersson (1899), is a composite of two species, namely, *Dendrophis pictus* (Asiatic) and *Leptophis hocercus* (S. American), *sensu* Boulenger. Lacépède, in 1789, tied the name *ahætulla* to the Asiatic specimen. He did not name his "Le Boiga" *Coluber boiga* as is generally stated, but *Coluber ahætulla*. This is clearly shewn in the synonymy of Le Boiga on p. 223 and in his Index on p. 507, col. 1. The name Le Boiga, as with the name La Sombre which follows it on p. 229 and many others, was used in a trivial sense. There is in consequence no such name as *Coluber boiga* Lacépède. Link in 1807 removed *Coluber ahætulla* from the genus *Coluber* of Linnæus and, including with it *C. mycterizans*, made a new genus which he called *Ahætulla*. To avoid tautonymy he renamed the *ahætulla* of Linnæus *fasciata*. In raising the Linnæan specific name to generic rank, he was following the usual practice of his time, and that such was his intention is clearly shown in his definition of the genus. His reference to the *boiga* of Lacépède shows also that he had in mind the Asiatic snake and not the South American one. *Ahætulla fasciata*, therefore, the *Dendrophis pictus* of Boie, based on the *Coluber ahætulla* (in part) of Linnæus, becomes type of the genus *Ahætulla* by absolute tautonymy (Art. 30, d).

Key to the Species

I Last 3 or 4 maxillary teeth larger—
stouter and usually longer—than the
others

A Scales in 15 rows

a Vertebral scales not strongly en-
larged, not broader at mid-body
than the scales of the outer row

Diameter of the eye not more than its distance
from the nostril, a black temporal stripe *ahætulla*, p. 242

- Diameter of the eye more than its distance from the nostril, no black temporal stripe
 b Vertebral scales strongly enlarged, broader at mid-body than the scales of the outer row
grandoculis, p 245
- A single loreal, V 186-211, no black flank stripe
cyanochloris, p 244
- Two loreals, V 154-176
bifrenalis, p 246
- B Scales in 13 rows
 Vertebral scales not strongly enlarged, the posterior margin rounded, T 1+2
caudolineolata, p 247
- Vertebral scales strongly enlarged, the posterior margin truncate, T 1+1
gorae, p 246
- II Posterior maxillary teeth shorter than the others
- A Scales in 15 rows
 Two labials touching the eye
tristis, p 248
- One long labial touching the eye
subocularis, p 249
- B Scales in 13 rows
 Dorsum with black longitudinal lines
[caudolineata], p 250

165 *Ahaetulla ahaetulla*.

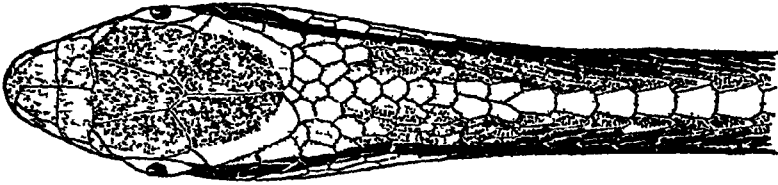
PAINTED BRONZE-BACK

- Coluber ahaetulla* Linn 1758, Syst Nat Ed 10, p 225 (in part), Lacépède, Hist Nat Serp 11, 1789, (1), pp 102, (11) 223 & 507, Andersson, Kungl Sven Vet Akad Stockholm, xxiv, 1899 (4), 6, p 22.
- Coluber pictus* Gmelin, 1789, Syst Nat 1, p 1116 (no type loc given; —*Dendrophis pictus*, Eoie, Isis, 1827, p 530 (Java), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 337, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 11, 1894, p 78 (in part), Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1907, p 189, and xix, 1909-10, pp 347, 788 and xxv, 1918, p 509, and Rec Ind Mus xxii, 1921, p 153, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, 1, 1914, p 96, Shaw & others, J Bengal N H S xiv, 1940, p 108
- Ahaetulla fasciata* Lank, 1807, Beschrl Nat Samml Rostock, p 74 (Based on Bechstein, Nat Amph 11, 1801, p 425)
- Coluber decorus* Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool 11, p 538 (type loc unknown London)
- Ahaetulla bellii* Hard & Gray, 1834, Ill Ind Zool 11, pl 80, fig 2 (Singapore)
- Dendrophis picta* var *andamanensis* Anderson, 1871, P Z S p 184 (Andamans Calcutta)
- Dendrophis proarchus* Wall, 1909, J Bombay N H S xix, pp 347 and 1910, p 827, fig (Dibrugarh, Assam London)
- Ahaetulla boiga* Cochran, 1930, Proc U S Nat Mus lxxvii (11), p 26 —*Dendrophis boiga*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 279
- Dendroph pictus ngansonensis* Bourret, 1935, Bull Gen Instr Pub Hanoi, May, p 4 (Ngan-son, Tong-King Paris), and Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, 11, p 221 (not seen by me)

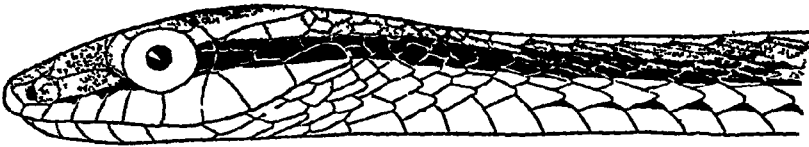
Maxillary teeth 23 to 28, posterior largest, snout broadly rounded, eye as long as its distance from the nostril, internasals usually a little shorter than the prefrontals, temporals 1+2 or 2+2, rarely 1+1, 9, rarely 8, supralabials, 4th just touching, 5th and 6th below the eye, vertebral scales enlarged, variable in breadth, at mid-body not broader than the outer

row of scales, the posterior margin obtusely pointed or rounded, or truncate, rarely concave. Scales in 15:15:11 or 9 rows V. 167-200; C 127-164, A 1 or 2

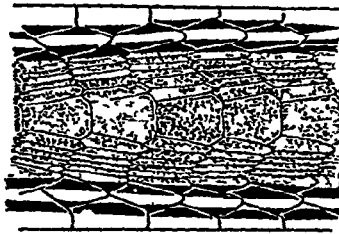
Hemipenis undivided, very long, extending to the 24th caudal plate, it is longitudinally plicate, the folds being provided with minute spines except at the extreme base where there are a few larger and coarser ones, sulcus lips very



A



B



C

Fig 85—*Ahætulla a. ahætulla*

A Dorsal B Lateral, view of head C Dorsal pattern

prominent, at about the middle of the organ and extending half-way across it are two transverse folds

Two races, the typical one with two colour forms

I *Ahætulla a. ahætulla*

1. Bronze-brown above, a yellow or cream-coloured flank stripe along scale-rows 1 and 2, bordered below by a dark, usually black, stripe, almost as broad, and with or without

a narrower one above, lower parts creamy white, or yellowish, or greenish or bluish, a black stripe along the side of the head, strong on the temple and passing on to the neck where it breaks up into oblique bars, upper lip and lower jaw yellow or white

Total length ♂ 1100, tail 365; ♀ 1220, tail 400 mm

Range The whole of the Indo-Chinese region, from Bengal and the Eastern Himalayas to Southern China. Common in many places, both in the hills and in the plains. Its occurrence in the Indian Peninsula is open to doubt (See Wall, 1910 and 1923)

2 Like the typical form, but with the markings reduced, the yellow flank stripe absent, or merely indicated, and the black one reduced to spots edging the scales

Range Southern India

II *Ahaetulla a andamanensis*

Bronzy olive or greenish, sometimes reddish, above, all the dorsals and the outer margins of the ventrals heavily edged with black, lower parts greenish-yellow, a black stripe along the side of the head passing on to the neck. A very distinct form, possibly a race of the Malayan *formosa* and not of *ahaetulla*

Range The Andamans

Except that it has the anal undivided, I cannot find any character by which to distinguish Wall's *proarchus* from *ahaetulla*, as an occasional aberration an undivided anal occurs also in *tristis*, *gorei* and *cyanochloris*

The Painted Bronze-back is fairly common throughout the greater part of the Indo-Chinese region, inhabiting the plains and hilly districts at low altitudes. I found it one of the commonest snakes in the neighbourhood of Bangkok, frequenting the low brushwood in the fields, the plantations and the compounds in the town, loving the sunshine and on the move at all hours of the day. In dull weather it was less active. Curiously enough for a creature of such marked arboreal habits, its diet seemed to consist entirely of frogs, mainly the common species of the rice fields. I never found anything else in the stomachs of those I examined, and when in captivity they lived entirely upon them, refusing all other kinds of food. In disposition they were shy and always resented being handled.

166 *Ahaetulla cyanochloris*.

Dendrophis pictus var *cyanochloris* Wall, 1921, Rec Ind Mus xxii, p 155 (Mergui, Tenasserim London)

Ahaetulla cyanochloris, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 482.

Dendrophis pictus, Boulenger, F B I, and Cat (in part)

Ahaetulla formosa, Smith, Bull Raffles Mus No 3, 1930, p 52 (in part)

Maxillary teeth 21 to 24, posterior largest, snout broader and squarer than in *ahætulla*, eye as long as its distance from the middle, or the anterior border, of the nostril, internasals as long as, or a little longer than, the prefrontals, temporals 1+2 or 2+2, 9, rarely 8 or 10, supralabials, 4th just touching, 5th and 6th below the eye, vertebrals strongly enlarged, at mid-body broader than the outer row of scales, the posterior margin truncate or concave Scales in 15 15 11 or 9 rows V 186-211, C 135-159, A 2

Hemipenis undivided, very long, extending to the 21st caudal plate; it is longitudinally plicate, the folds being linked to each other at regular intervals so as to enclose diamond-shaped spaces (calyces), they are provided with minute spines, the basal portion of the organ is sharply marked off from the calyculate area by an oblique fold of tissue and has only large coarse spines

Bronzy-olive above, the scales black-edged, ventrals and outer scales-rows pale greenish or yellowish, usually no black flank stripe, a broad black temporal stripe, extending on to the neck and forebody, where it may be broken up into spots, lips and lower jaw yellowish

Total length: ♀ 1330, tail 405 mm

Range Bengal (Darjeeling district), Assam north to the Thandaung Hills; Upper Burma (Htingnan in the Triangle), Tenasserim, Siam in the north-west, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

A *cyanochloris* was described by Wall as a colour variety of *ahætulla*, the distribution of the two forms in Indo-China being almost the same On the characters set forth in the Key, I have regarded it as a species There is, however, considerable variation in the degree of enlargement of the vertebral scales, and the coloration is not quite constant More material may prove *ahætulla* to be a very variable species, and Wall's opinion the correct one

Another near relative of *cyanochloris* is the Malayan *formosa* to which it bears a strong resemblance Typical *formosa* from the Malay Peninsula as far north as lat 9°, has, however, 30 to 34 maxillary teeth

167 *Ahætulla grandoculis*.

Dendrophis grandoculis Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 337 (Tinnevely Hills & Coonoor-Ghat, S India London), and Cat Sn. Brit Mus n, 1894, p 84, pl iv, fig 2, Feiguson, J Bombay N H S x, p 72, Wall, ibid xxix, 1923, p 624, and Rec Ind Mus xxii, 1921, p 156

Dendrophis formosus grandoculis, Meise & Hennig, Zool Anz Leipzig, xcix, 1932, 11/12, p 286

Maxillary teeth 31 to 33, posterior largest, snout broader and squarer than in *picta*, eye as long as, or a little longer than, its distance from the anterior border of the nostril, internasals as long as the prefrontals; temporals 1+2 or 2+2, 9 supra-

labials, 4th just touching, 5th and 6th below the eye, vertebral scales feebly enlarged, at mid-body not broader than the outer row of scales, the posterior margin rounded or obtusely pointed. Scales in 15 15 11 or 9 rows V 167-189, C 117-124, A 2

Olive-brown above, with small, black, irregularly distributed blotches, eye bordered with whitish, no lateral stripes on the body; no black temporal stripe, lower parts olive, darker behind than in front, with or without small black spots on the sides; 3 black lines along the tail, one on each side and one below

Total length ♀ 1280, tail 350 mm

Range The Western Ghats, south of lat 15° (Travancore, Tinnevely, Nilgiri Hills, Wynaad)

168. *Ahaetulla gorei*.

Dendrophis gorei Wall, 1910, J Bombay N. H. S. xix, p 829, pl —, figs 1-3 (Jaipur, Naga Hills, Assam London), Annandale, Rec Ind. Mus. viii, 1912, p 48, Wall, ibid. xxi, 1921, p 153, and J Bombay N. H. S. xxii, 1913, p 639, and xxix, 1923, p 623

Dendrelaphis biloreatus Wall, 1908, J Bombay N. H. S. xviii, p 273, pl —, figs 1-5 (Sadiya, Assam London), and xxix, 1923, p 625, and Rec Ind. Mus. xxi, 1921, p 159

Closely allied to *cyanochloris*. Maxillary teeth 22 to 25, posterior largest, snout broadly rounded, eye as long as its distance from the anterior border of the nostril, internasals shorter than the prefrontals, temporals 1+1+2, 8, rarely 9, supralabials, normally 4th and 5th touching the eye, vertebral scales strongly enlarged, at mid-body broader than the outer row of scales, the posterior margin truncate or concave. Scales in 13·13 11 or 9 rows V 187-199, C 139-154,

Hemipenis as in *tristis*

Bronze-brown above, greenish or greyish below, a more or less distinct yellowish stripe along scale rows 1 and 2, a black stripe along each side of the head, extending on to the neck, where it breaks up into vertical bars, lips and chin yellowish

Total length ♀ 900, tail 320 mm

Range The Eastern Himalayas (Darjeeling); Assam north to the Abor country, Burma (Toungyi), Tong-King

The type of *biloreatus* cannot now be found, except that it has two loreal shields, it appears to be identical with the present species.

169. *Ahaetulla bifrenalis*.

Dendrophis bifrenalis Boulenger, 1890, F. B. I. p 338 (Ceylon; London), and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. ii, 1894, p 80, pl 4, fig 1. Wall, Rec Ind. Mus. xxi, 1921, p 158, and Sn. Ceylon, 1921, p 215, fig 44, and J. Bombay N. H. S. xxix, 1923, p 624

Maxillary teeth 20 to 25, posterior largest, snout broadly rounded, eye as long as its distance from the centre or the anterior border of the nostril, internasals shorter than the prefrontals, 2 loreals, one behind the other; temporals 1+2 or 2+2, 9 supralabials, 4th just touching, 5th and 6th below the eye, vertebrals strongly enlarged, broader than the outer row of scales at mid-body, the posterior margin truncate or concave Scales in 15:15:11 rows V 154-176, C 144-175, A 2

Bronze-brown above, a greenish-yellow line along the outer row of scales, sometimes edged with black spots, a black stripe along the side of the head, strong on the temple, and passing on to the neck, where it breaks up into oblique bars, ventrals and subcaudals between the lateral keels greenish-yellow, brownish or bluish outside the keels, upper lip and chin yellowish

Total length: ♀ 1030, tail 380 mm

Range Ceylon; Southern India (Trivandrum, Travancore).

170 *Ahætulla caudolineolata*.

Dendrophis caudolineolatus Günther, 1869, P Z S p 506, pl xl, fig 1 (Ceylon London), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 339, and Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 85, Wall, Rec Ind Mus xxi, 1921, p 151, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 218, and J. Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 623

Dendrophis gregori Haly, 1888, Taprobanean, iii, p 51 (Ceylon)

Dendrophis effrenis Werner, 1909, Jahrb Hamburg Wiss Anst xvi, p 221 (Colombo, Ceylon. Hamburg); Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 219, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 623

Maxillary teeth 29 to 32, posterior largest; snout broadly rounded, eye as long as its distance from the anterior border of the nostril, internasals shorter than the prefrontals, temporals 1+2, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, vertebrals feebly enlarged, at mid-body narrower than the outer row of scales, the posterior margin rounded or truncate Scales in 13.13 9 rows V. 149-164, C 119-128, A 2

Hemipenis as in *tristis*

Bronze-olive above, anteriorly with oblique, narrow, black streaks, tail with 4, more or less distinct, black longitudinal lines, two on each side, a narrow black temporal streak, upper lip and lower jaw yellowish, belly pale greenish or greyish

Total length ♂ 650, tail 235 mm (Wall, 870 mm ♀)

Range Ceylon, Southern India (Ramnad, Travancore)

A rare snake, found only in the hills

171 *Ahaetulla tristis*.

COMMON INDIAN BRONZE-BACK.

- Russell, Ind Serp 1, 1796, p 36, pl 31, Hyderabad; and 11, p 29, pl. 25, Bombay, and 11, p 30, pl 26, Tranquebar
Coluber tristis Daudin, 1803, Hist. Nat. Rept. vi, p 430 (based on Russell's pl. 31).—*Dendrelaphis tristis*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus 11, 1894, p. 88, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xix, 1909-10, pp 347 and 776, col pl, xi and xxx, 1923, p 625, and Rec Ind Mus xxii, 1921, p. 160, and Sn. Ceylon, 1921, p 221, fig; Prater, J Bombay N. H S xxx, 1924, p 170, Shaw & others, J. Bengal N H S xiv, 1940, p 111.
Leptophis mancas Bell, 1825, Zool Journ 11, p 329 (based on Russell, 11, pl 25)
Dendrophis maniar Boie, 1827, Isis, p 542 (based on Russell, 11, pl 25)
Dendrophis chaireceæos Boie, 1827, Isis, p 541 (based on Russell, 11, pl 26)
Chrysopetea boiei A Smith, 1836, Mag Zool Bot p 144 (Ceylon)
—*Dendrophis boiei* Cantor, E. Z. S 1839, p 53 (drawing in Bodleian Lib)
Dendrophis helena Werner, 1892, Zool Anz. xvi, p 8 (Ceylon Berlin)
Dendrelaphis tristis var *taprobanensis* Wall, 1921, Sn Ceylon, p. 221 (Ceylon).
Dendrophis pictus, Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 337 (in part)

Maxillary teeth 17 to 22, posterior usually smallest, snout broadly rounded; eye as long as its distance from the nostril, internasals usually a little shorter than the prefrontals, temporals 2+2; 9 supralabials, 5th and 6th touching the eye; vertebral scales feebly enlarged, narrower than the outer scales, the posterior margin rounded Scales in 15:15·11 or 9 rows V. 163-197, C 108-145, A 2

Hemipenis undivided, extending to the 8th caudal plate, at about the middle of the organ and beside the sulcus there is a prominent tongue of tissue, from which two sinuous folds extend forwards, the area distal to the folds is calyculate, that proximal to it spinose, except the base of the organ, which is plicate

Bronze-brown or purplish-brown above, light greyish, greenish or yellowish below, a more or less distinct buff flank stripe along the outer two scale rows, edged or spotted with black, an indistinct black temporal stripe extending on to the neck, where it may break up into vertical bars, vertebral scales on neck and forebody sometimes yellow, upper lip yellow, the eye often margined with the same colour

Total length ♂ 1050, tail 325; ♀ 1300, tail 390 mm

Range Ceylon and Peninsular India as far as Sind in the north-west and Darjeeling in the north-east For its more exact distribution I quote Wall (1910) It is very common in Ceylon and in S India about Trichinopoly and Cannanore and in the Western Ghats in the plains and hills of Travancore,

and about Matheran near Bombay, it is uncommon in the plains to the north of the Tapti river, and does not appear to occur at all in the Indus Basin except near the mouth of the river. Blanford, collecting at Ajmere for 3 years, failed to procure a specimen, the Ganges Valley appears to be outside its limits except at the eastern part near the Delta; it has not been recorded from Central India or the Central Provinces, it is quite common in the Eastern Himalayas in the vicinity of Darjeeling at between 2,500 and 5,000 feet altitude.

Wall (1910) has given a good account of the habits of this common Indian snake. Like the other Oriental members of the genus, it is shy and timid in disposition, and does not bite readily when handled. It feeds mainly on lizards and frogs. He says: "It is truly astonishing with what speed it can ascend an almost bare tree trunk from the ground, and disappear in the branches above."

172 *Ahætulla subocularis*.

Dendrophis subocularis Boulenger, 1888, Ann Mus Civ Genova, (2) vi, p 600, pl vi, fig 2 (Bhamo, Upper Burma - London and Genoa), and F B I 1890, p 338 — *Dendrelaphus subocularis*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus II, 1894, p 89; Smith, J. Bombay N. H S xxii, 1915, p 785, and P. Z S 1921, p 426; Gyldenstolpe, Kungl Sv Vet Akad Stockholm, lv, 1916 (3) p 15, Wall, Rec Ind Mus xxii, 1921, p 159, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 625, and xxx, 1925, p 813
Dendrophis tristis subocularis Meise & Hennig, Zool Anz. Leipzig, xcix, 1932, p 292

Closely allied to *tristis*. Maxillary teeth 21 to 23, posterior smallest; snout broadly rounded; eye as long as its distance from the anterior border of the nostril; internasals a little shorter than the prefrontals, temporals 2+2; 7 or 8 supralabials, one long shield touching the eye with 3 or 4 anterior and 3 posterior to it, vertebrals feebly enlarged, much narrower than the outer row of scales, their posterior margins rounded. Scales in 15·15·11 or 9 rows V. 153-175; C. 85-105; A 2.

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, undivided and spinose throughout, the spines in the middle of the organ being largest, the proximal end is plicate, starting a short distance behind the tip and extending for about half the length of the organ beside the sulcus, there is a thick fold or tongue of tissue.

Bronze above, the colour ending abruptly along the middle of scale row 2, rest of lower parts pearly white, or greenish-white, a pale brown stripe along the side of the body on the lower half of scale row 1 and adjacent part of the ventral shields present or absent, a dark stripe along the side of the head, passing on to the neck where it may break up into

vertical bars, vertebral scales on neck and forepart of body sometimes yellowish

Total length · ♀ 880, tail 250 mm

Range Burma (Bhamo), the whole of Siam, except the north-eastern plateau, as far south as lat 11°, Dran on the Langbian Plateau, S Annam

173 [*Ahaetulla caudolineata*.]

Ahaetulla caudolineata Gray, 1834, Ill Ind Zool. ii, pl 81 (no type loc given) — *Dendrelaphis caudolineatus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 330, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 147, Smith, Bull Raffles Mus No 3, 1930, p. 52

A Malayan species that has been found as far north as Taph, Isthmus of Kra

Genus **CHRYSOPELEA.**

Chrysopelea Boie, 1826, in Foruss Bull Sci Nat ix, p. 237, and Isis, 1827, p 520 (type *Ool ornatus*), A Smith, Mag. Zool. Bot 1836, p 141, Boulenger, F. B I 1890, p 371, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p. 195; Meise and Honnig, Zool Anz Berlin, cix, 1935, 5/6, p 138, Parker, Ann Mag Nat. Hist (10) xviii, 1936, p 227, Brongersma, Zool Meded Londen, xx, 1938, p 241

Tyria (not of Huebner 1822) Fitzinger, 1826, Neue Class Rept p 29 (type *Coluber tibiboca* Daudin)

Maxillary teeth 20 to 22, the last 3 or 4 a little larger than the others and grooved Head distinct from neck, eye rather large, with round pupil Body elongate, scales smooth or feebly keeled, oblique, with apical pits, in 17:17:15 rows, ventrals with a suture-like lateral keel and a notch on each side corresponding to the keel, tail long; subcaudals in two rows, keeled and notched like the ventrals Hypapophyses present or absent on the posterior dorsal vertebrae

Range The Oriental Region and East Indian Islands

I recognize five species, three inhabiting India and Indo-China Except that the posterior teeth are grooved, the maxilla of *Chrysopelea* resembles that of *Ahaetulla*.

Brongersma has shown recently* that in *Chrysopelea ornata* the hypapophyses on the posterior dorsal vertebrae may be present or absent An examination of the extensive material in the British Museum shows that their presence or absence can be correlated with geographical distribution, and also with colour pattern. The processes are absent in the specimens inhabiting India and Indo-China, but present in those in the

* "On the Presence or Absence of Hypapophyses under the Posterior Precaudal Vertebrae in some Snakes," Zool Meded Londen, xx, 1938, pp. 240-242

Malay Peninsula and Archipelago They must therefore be regarded as distinct species For the Malayan form the name *paradisi* is available My reasons for regarding *taprobanica* as distinct are given under that species

Key to the Species.

- I. Hypapophyses absent on the posterior dorsal vertebrae
 Last ventral shield divided, colour green above, each scale with a black median line . . . *ornata*, p 251
 Last ventral shield not divided; olive with black cross-bars . . . *taprobanica*, p 254
- II Hypapophyses present throughout the vertebral column
 Black above, each scale with a central yellow spot . . . *paradisi*, p 254.

174 *Chrysopelea ornata*.

GOLDEN TREE SNAKE.

Russell, Ind Serp ii, 1801, p 4, pl 2, "Kalla Jin" (no type loc given)

Coluber ornatus Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool iii, p 477 (based on Seba, i, t 94, f 7 and ii, t 7, f 1, and t 61, f 2, East India Islands) — *Chrysopelea ornata*, Boie, Isis, 1827, p 546; Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 371, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 196 (in part), Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 227, col pl, and xxix, 1924, p 878, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 305 (in part), Thompson, F Z S 1913, p 420; Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, i, 1914, p 175, and Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 482, Cochran, Proc US Nat Mus lxxvii, 11, 1930, p 33, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 318, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 321

Coluber tibiboca Daudin, 1802, Hist Nat Rept vi, p 327 (based on Russell's "Kalla Jin")

Chrysopelea ornata ornatissima Werner, 1925, Sitz Ber Akad Wiss Wien, cxxxiv, p 61 (Angkor Wat, Cambodia Vienna)

Snout much depressed, broadly truncate, internasals shorter than the prefrontals, frontal bell-shaped, about as long as its distance from the end of the snout, loreal elongate, 1 large preocular, 2 postoculars, temporals 2+2, usually 9 supralabials, 4th just touching, 5th and 6th below the eye, anterior genials shorter than the posterior, scales smooth or feebly keeled, anal and last ventral divided V 207-230, C 120-138 (Ceylon and S India), V 213-234, C 110-138 (Indo-China)

Hemipenis extending to the 34th caudal plate, undivided, extending from near the distal end of the organ to the tip are several prominent, oblique folds through one of which the sulcus passes, the entire organ is longitudinally plicate, the area proximal to the oblique folds being strongly spinose.

Colour very variable, Boulenger has listed many colour forms, but the range he has allotted some of them is based, I believe, on inaccurate data. After examining material the origin of which is not in doubt, I find that each colour form can be restricted to a definite geographical area.

The young are black above, with narrow pale greenish-yellow cross-bars, these may be dilated vertebally and on the sides of the body, and the scales may or may not have a black mesial streak. As age advances the green coloration gradually increases in extent, adults in the area covered by this work are marked as follows.—

I Greenish-yellow or pale green above, each scale with a mesial streak or spot of black, and more or less edged with

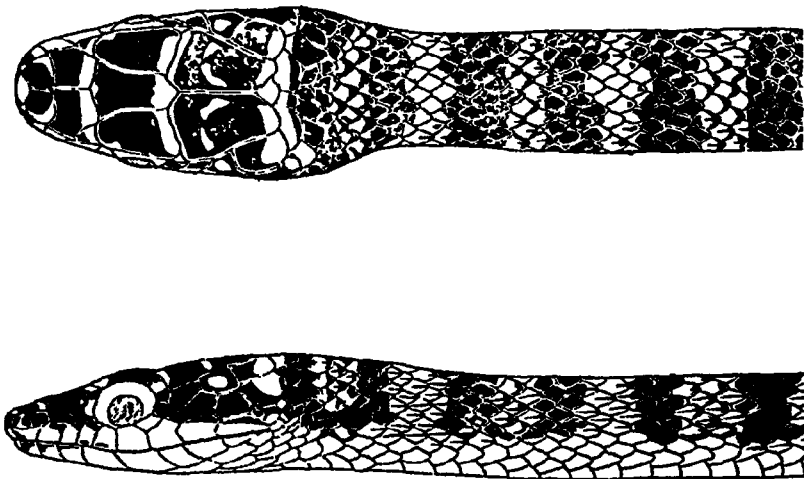


Fig 86 — *Chrysopelea ornata*, Var I.

black, at regular intervals the scales are entirely black, thus forming cross-bars, a series of large reddish or orange vertebral spots shaped like tetrapetalous flowers present or absent, ventrals greenish, the shield outside the lateral keel with a black spot, or edged with black, head black with yellow cross-bars and spots (fig 86), subcaudals edged with black or with a black mesial streak. The flower-shaped spots are present in all Ceylonese specimens that I have seen, they are placed on each alternate cross-bar, they are less evident, or absent, in specimens from Southern India.

Range Ceylon, and the Western Ghats south of the Goa Gap (*vide* Wall)

II Like the preceding but without the vertebral spots. In specimens from Burma and Siam the black cross-bars are much less conspicuous and may be entirely absent, the mesial

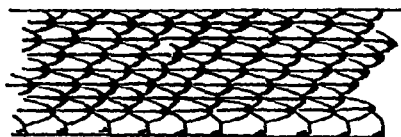
streak on each scale may then give the appearance of black longitudinal lines (fig 87 A) In specimens from French Indo-China the black cross-bars are usually very distinct, and they then closely resemble specimens from Southern India

Range The whole of the Indo-Chinese region, extending in the north-west to the Triangle in Upper Burma and the Darjeeling district, and to Patna and Buxa in Bihar and Orissa, in the north-east to Tong-King and Southern China (Hong Kong); south to lat. 6° N

Total length: ♂ 1040, tail 300, ♀ 1100, tail 275 mm

Examples measuring 1400 mm in total length are not uncommon

Many accounts have been written of this snake, of its boldness and courage, its remarkable climbing powers and its



A



B

Fig 87 —Dorsal pattern of A *Chrysopelea ornata*, Var. II ;
B *Chrysopelea paradis*

power of "flight" It is a common snake throughout Southern Indo-China, and its diurnal habits and fondness for human habitations make it well known there Its tastes are catholic and it is prepared to devour anything that it can overcome Lizards, mainly geckos, small mammals, birds, snakes and even insects have been recorded as part of its diet I have seen one catch a full-grown mouse, crush it in its coils and swallow it, the whole operation being accomplished in mid-air, the snake being suspended by its tail only from a small branch. There are several accounts of combats between it and the large and powerful Geckos (*G. gecko* and *G. smithi*) some of which have lasted for over an hour. Its ability to climb perpendicular walls or trunks of trees by taking advantage of

every slight irregularity of surface and thus reach positions apparently quite inaccessible, is amazing

Its power of so-called 'flight' is well proved. The means by which this is accomplished has been explained by Shelford (P Z S 1906)

He took one to a height of 15 or 20 feet from the ground and allowed it to fall several times, after one or two false starts it was felt to glide from the hands, straightening itself out and hollowing the ventral surface as it moved, and fell at an angle to the ground, the body being kept rigid all the time. This concavity of the belly can often be seen in preserved specimens

Short distances are negotiated by springing. I have seen one make a series of leaps from branch to branch in a tree, coiling itself in preparation and then suddenly straightening the whole body out as it leaped across. The distances covered were between 3 and 4 feet and some of them were made in an upward direction.

Pairing in Bangkok takes place in June. From 6 to 12 very elongate eggs are laid at a time

175 *Chrysopelea taprobanica*, sp nov

Chrysopelea ornata, Auct (in part)

C. taprobanica has been hitherto regarded as a colour variety of *ornata*, but it differs so entirely in coloration from the typical form which is also found in Ceylon, that I must regard it as distinct. It has, moreover, two morphological differences which appear to be constant, namely, the last ventral shield is never divided, and the scales are always more or less distinctly keeled. V 198-214; C 107-123, A 2 (8 examples examined), 7 specimens from Ceylon of typical *ornata* have V 207-230, C 120-138

Light olive-brown above, with narrow, wavy, black cross-bars; a black spot on each ventral shield outside the lateral keel, subcaudals not spotted below; head as in *ornata*

Total length · ♀ 960, tail 270 mm

Type ♀ Brit Mus 1906 7.21.1 from Kanthali, Ceylon
Paratypes 1915 5 3 10-11, Kurunegala, Ceylon

Range. Peculiar to Ceylon

176 *Chrysopelea paradisi*.

Chrysopelea paradisi Boie, 1927, Isis, p 547 (Java)

Chrysopelea ornata, (in part) Boulenger, Rept Malay Pen., 1912, p 177, fig., Annandale, J Asiat Soc Bengal, n s 1, 1905, p 126, de Rooy, Rept Indo-Austral Archipel II, 1917, p 212, fig

Like *ornata*, but with the hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column and a different colour pattern

Black above, each scale with a central, rounded, or ovate-

acuminate, greenish-yellow spot, and with or without a vertebral series of red or yellow tetrapetalous spots, pale greenish-yellow below, the ventrals often edged with black. Head as in *ornata*. In some individuals the central spot may have a median stippling (fig 87 B).

Range The Malay Peninsula extending up the west coast as far north as Mergui, Andaman Islands (Narcondam), Borneo and the Philippine Islands adjacent to it, Sumatra, Java.

Genus LYCODON.

WOLF SNAKES.

- Lycodon* Boie, 1826, in Ferussac's Bull Sci Nat ix, p 238 (in part), Fitzinger, Neue Class Rept 1826, pp 29, 30 (type *aulicus*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 291, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 348 (in part), Wall, J Bombay N H S xvii, 1907, p 614, and xxix, 1923, p 612, Bourret, Serp. Indo-Chine, 1936, p 150, Werner, Zool Jahrb Syst lvi, 1929, p 56.
Ophites Wagler, 1830, Syst Amphib p 186 (type *subcinctus*).
Sphcodes (not of Latreille 1804), Dum & Bib 1853, Mem Acad Sci xxii, p 461, and Erp Gen vii, 1854, p 394 (type *albifuscus*).
Leptorhyaon Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p 205 (type *Coluber jara*).
Tetragonosoma Günther, l c s p 253 (type *Lycodon effrentis*).
Tytleria Theobald, 1868, Cat Rept Asiat Soc Mus p 66 (type *hypsirhinoides*).

Maxillary bone strongly arched, and bent inwards anteriorly, with 3 to 6 anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, 7 to 15 in number, the last two of which are larger than the others. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, depressed, eye moderate, with vertically elliptic pupil. Body elongate, scales in 19, 17 or 15 rows, smooth or feebly keeled, with apical pits, ventrals with or without a lateral keel, subcaudals paired except in *travancoricus*. Hypapophyses absent in the posterior part of the vertebral column.

Common characters, unless otherwise stated. Head elongate, depressed, nostril between two nasals, diameter of the eye greater than its distance from the mouth, rostral much broader than high, internasals much shorter than the prefrontals, loreal elongate, at least twice as long as high, 2 postoculars, 3rd, 4th and 5th supralabials touching the eye.

Aberrations, such as union of the loreal with the prefrontal and an undivided anal when it is usually divided, have been recorded for several species (*aulicus*, *striatus*, *travancoricus*).

Range The Oriental Region to Transcaspia and the Indo-Australian Archipelago.

With the exception of *L. subcinctus*, all the members of this genus appear to be excellent climbers. They are nocturnal in their habits, extremely active in their movements, and generally vicious in disposition, biting readily when molested;

the small size of their teeth, however, prevents any serious damage being done. Lizards form the main part of their diet, those species that frequent dwellings (*aulicus*, *travancoricus*, *striatus*) living mainly on Geckos, the others on Sninks, small mammals such as mice have also been recorded in their diet. All the species are oviparous, the eggs being elongate, their length from two to three times that of their breadth.

Lycodon, *Dinodon* and *Cercaspis* are three closely related genera. *Cercaspis* is readily distinguished by the character of its vertebræ, the other two can be separated from one another on their dentition and the shape of the maxillary bone. The division between them, however, is not clearly marked,

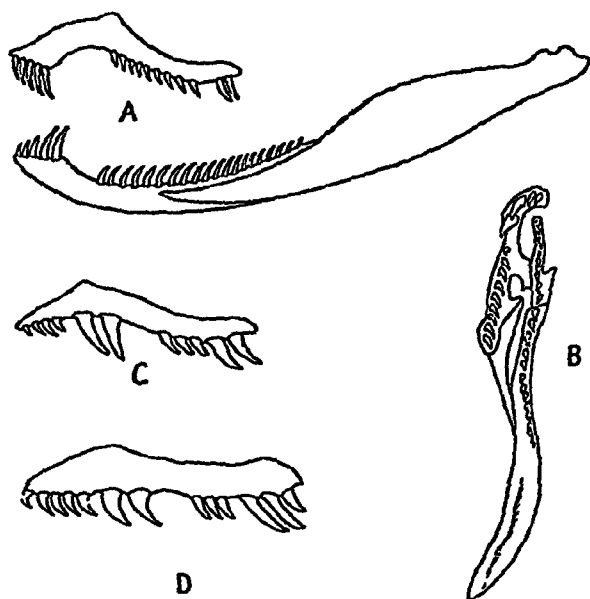


Fig 88—A Maxilla and mandible and B Palato-maxillary arch of *Lycodon aulicus*, C Maxilla of *Lycodon fasciatus*, D Maxilla of *Dinodon flavozonatum*

Lycodon fasciatus (as pointed out by Wall, 1925) and *Dinodon gammiei* connecting them. The centre of distribution of *Lycodon* is the Oriental Region. *Dinodon* is Chinese, the meeting place of the two being the Eastern Himalayas and the Trans-Himalayan area. *Lycodon* is a genus of small snakes, only *L. subcinctus*, by far the largest, reaching 1000 mm in length. Most of the members of *Dinodon* are considerably larger. Wall has stated (1908, p. 779) that in 9 species of *Lycodon* examined by him the apical pits are in pairs, whereas in *Dinodon* they are single. After examining species of both genera I find myself unable to agree with his opinion.

According to him the iris in *Lycodon* is invisible in life, the whole eye being black, a condition rarely found in snakes.

Hurriah sanguiniventer Cantor, 1839, p. 52 (Valley of Nepal. coloured sketch in Bodleian Library) is, from the drawing, an undoubted *Lycodon*, but I am unable to assign it to any known species. The head shows two superposed loreals, both touching the eye; no preocular; 8 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, temporals 1+2. The scales are keeled V. 207, angulate laterally; C. 99, the anterior 14 entire.

Deep claret purple above, with metallic tinge; blood-coloured beneath.

Total length: 2 ft 4 in, tail 7 in (700 mm).

See also Günther, Rept. Brit. India, 1864, p. 222, fig. head. Cantor's figure of the head does not agree with that given by Günther.

Key to the Species

- A Scales in 17 rows
- I No preocular; prefrontal and loreal in contact with the eye; scales feebly keeled *subcinctus*, p. 258.
- II A preocular separating the prefrontal from the eye, loreal not touching the eye, scales smooth
- a Loreal not or but slightly in contact with the internasal; anterior and posterior nasal shields subequal.
- Anal undivided, back with light cross-bars which are never pure white *travancoricus*, p. 259.
- Anal divided; back with light cross-bars, the anterior of which are pure white *laeensis*, p. 259
- b Loreal extensively in contact with the internasal
1. Ventrals not angulate laterally; posterior nasal usually distinctly smaller than the anterior.
- Snout not projecting, 8 or 9 supralabials; black above, each scale with two white spots *jara*, p. 260.
- Snout projecting, 8 supralabials; back with a series of light vertebral spots or cross-bars *striatus*, p. 261.
- Snout projecting, 9 supralabials; back with a series of small white vertebral spots *flavomaculatus*, p. 262.
- Snout projecting, 8 supralabials. back with light reticulations *mackinnoni*, p. 263.
- 2 Ventrals angulate laterally.
- 9 supralabials, posterior nasal not smaller than the anterior *aulicus*, p. 263
- III A preocular; loreal touching the eye; scales keeled, ventrals angulate laterally *fasciatus*, p. 266.
- B Scales in 15 rows.
- 7 supralabials; T 1+2 *kundui*, p. 260
- C Scales in 19 rows.
- A preocular; scales keeled *paucifasciatus*, p. 267.

177 *Lycodon subcinctus*.

Russell, Ind Serp n, 1801, p 44, pl xli (Java)

Lycodon subcinctus Boie, 1827, Isis, p 551 (based on Russell's plate), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 359, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 133, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, vi, 1923, p 202 — *Ophites subcinctus*, Gunther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 322, Smith, Bull Raffles Mus No 3, 1930, p 46, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 157, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 196, fig head, Herklots, Hong Kong Nat vi, 1935, p 195, fig head

Elapoides annulatus Sauvage, 1884, Bull Soc Philom (7) viii, p 144 (Sumatra Paris)

Snout broad; posterior nasal higher than the anterior, no preocular, the prefrontal in contact with the eye, loreal touching the eye, widely separated from the internasal, temporals 1+2, 8 supralabials, anterior pair of genials as long as, or a little longer than, the posterior Scales in 17·17.15 rows, feebly keeled, the outer rows usually smooth V 197–230, angulate laterally, C 71–90, A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 13th caudal plate, forked near the tip, the distal $\frac{1}{3}$ is calyculate, the edges of the calyces being set with numerous fine fleshy spines, the remainder of the organ has longitudinal folds

Greyish- or purplish-black above, with widely separated, white cross-bars, 10–13 on the body, these markings very distinct in the young but becoming less distinct and usually disappearing entirely on the hinder part of the body in the adult, white below, the ventrals sometimes edged with black, hinder part of the head white in the young, greyish or blackish in the adult, in the young the dark coloration of the back is continued across the belly, under surface of tail grey in the young, white in the adult Adult specimens, particularly those from the northern part of its range, have the white cross-bars thickly speckled with black

Total length ♂ 900, tail 190, ♀ 1000, tail 180 mm

Range The whole of Siam and French Indo-China, Hainan, Southern China, Hong Kong, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago

Rare in the northern part of its range, except on Hong Kong I, where according to Herklots it is not uncommon

L subcinctus is found usually at low altitudes, but has been obtained on Gunong Tahan in the Malay Peninsula at 5,400 feet altitude (Smith, 1930) Its food appears to consist entirely of snakes (Pope, 1935) Kopstein (1930) has figured the eggs laid by a Javanese specimen. Five were laid between May 20th and 24th and hatched out on August 11th

178 *Lycodon travancoricus*.

Cercasps travancoricus Beddome, 1870, Madras Month J Med. Sci ii, p 169 (Travancore Hills: London) and J Soc Biol Nat Hist, I, 1940, p 327 (reprint)—*Lycodon travancoricus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 293, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 355, pl xxiv, fig 3, Wall, J Bombay N H S xvi, 1905, p 297, and xix, 1909, p 756, and xxvi, 1919, p 565, and xxx, 1923, p 613, Ferguson, ibid x, 1895, p 71.

Snout broad, anterior and posterior nasals subequal, loreal normally not touching the eye, not touching the internasal, a preocular, temporals 2+3 or 3+3, 9 supralabials; anterior pair of genials as large as or a little larger than the posterior Scales in 17:17.15 rows, smooth V 176-206, angulate laterally, C 64-76, paired, or some, rarely all of them, single, A 1

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, forked at the tip, the distal one-third can be divided into two parts, a larger portion adjacent to the sulcus which is flounced and more or less calyculate, the flounces being large and arranged in oblique or transverse folds, and a narrower portion opposite to the sulcus which is spinose, the remainder of the organ is spinose, the largest spines being opposite the sulcus, at the extreme tip of the organ are two small smooth areas or pockets

Dark purplish-brown or blackish above, with pale yellow cross-bars which bifurcate on the sides, enclosing more or less triangular spots, the first cross-bar is on the nape, those on the anterior part of the body are further apart than those on the posterior; all of them are more or less distinctly speckled with black, uniform white below, upper lip usually brown, spotted with white

Total length ♂ 600, tail 125, ♀ 625, tail 120 mm (Wall, 742)

Range The Western Ghats, as far north as Matheran Wall also records it from South Arcot, Vizagapatam, and Jubblepore in the Central Provinces Common in the Wynaad and the Nilgiris

179 *Lycodon laoensis*.

Lycodon laoensis Günther, 1864, Rept. Brit. Ind p 317 (Laos, French Indo-China London), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 354, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 132, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, ii, 1916, p 160, and Bull Raffles Mus No 3, 1930, p 46

Anterior and posterior nasals subequal, loreal not, or just, touching the internasal, not touching the eye, a preocular, temporals 2+3, 9 supralabials, the anterior pair of genials much larger than the posterior Scales in 17 17.15 smooth V angulate laterally, 165-187, C 60-73, s 2

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, forked at the tip; the extremity of the organ is calyculate, the calyces being very large and folded transversely; the remainder of the organ is spinose, the spines being arranged in longitudinal series, the largest ones are opposite the sulcus

Brownish- or bluish-black above, with bright yellow cross-bars which expand laterally; posteriorly they are narrower and closer together, and the lateral expansions enclose triangular spots, a yellow bar on the nape, upper lip and lower parts uniform white

Total length ♀ 475, tail 90 mm

Range The whole of Siam and the Malay Peninsula as far south as Patani, Laos, Cochin China, S Annam (Langbian plateau)

A female caught in northern Siam on April 3rd contained 5 eggs

180. *Lycodon kundui*, sp. nov

Anterior and posterior nasal subequal, loreal twice as long as high, well separated from the internasal and the eye, temporals 1+2, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 4 infralabials in contact with the anterior pair of genuals, which are much larger than the posterior. Scales smooth, in 15 15:15 rows V. 186, strongly angulate laterally; C 70, A. 2

Bluish-black above, with narrow white cross-bars; on the posterior half of the body they are closer together and bifurcate or break up on the sides. A white bar on the nape; lower parts (ventrals and outer scale rows) white

Total length . 225, tail 38 mm.

Described from a single juvenile specimen obtained by Dr. Kundu of the Harcourt Butler Institute, Rangoon, at Gyobu, Taikkyi Township, Pegu district. I have pleasure in naming it after him

L. kundui is most nearly related to *L. laoensis*, from which it differs in the reduction of the number of scales round the body as well as of the labials and temporals

No member of the genus has yet been described with only 15 scales round the body, in dentition and in the shape of the maxillary bone, however, this new species is a typical *Lycodon*

181 *Lycodon jara*.

Russell, Ind Serp 1, 1796, p 19, pl xiv (Ganjam)
Coluber jara Shaw, 1802, Gen. Zool iii, p. 525 (based on Russell's plate)—*Lycodon jara*, Stoliczka, J A. S. Bengal, xl, 1871, p 442; Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 292, and Cat Sn. Brit.

Mus 1, 1893, p 350, and Rec Ind Mus ix, 1913, p 338, Wall, J Bombay N H S xix, 1909, pp 344 and 619 — *Leptorhyaon jara*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 321 — *Ophites jara*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 612, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiii, 1939, p 155
Coluber bipunctatus Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 52 (Balasore, Bengal sketch in Bodleian Library)

Snout not projecting beyond the lower jaw, anterior nasal usually larger than the posterior, loreal in contact with the internasal, not touching the eye, a preocular, temporals 1+2 or 2+3, 8, sometimes 9, supralabials, anterior pair of genials larger than the posterior Scales in 17 : 17 15 rows, smooth V 167-188, not angulate laterally, C 52-74; A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, the distal $\frac{1}{2}$ is obliquely fimbriated and calyculate, the remainder of the organ spinose, the spines being large and of more or less equal size throughout

Brownish or purplish-black above, stippled all over with white (yellow in life), the pattern being formed by small spots or short longitudinal lines, two on each scale, upper lip and lower surface uniform white, - a white collar always present in the young

Total length ♂ 535, tail 115, ♀ 550, tail 105 mm

Range Ganjam in the northern part of the Madras Presidency, the Eastern Himalayas as far west as longitude 85°; Bengal, Assam

182 *Lycodon striatus*.

Russell, Ind Serp 1, 1796, pp 22, 32, pls xvi & xxvi (Vizagapatam and Hyderabad)

Coluber striatus Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool iii, p 527 (based on Russell's pl xvi) — *Lycodon striatus*, Stoliczka, 1870, J A S Bengal, xxxix, p 200, Anderson, P Z S 1871, p 187, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 292, and P Z S 1891, p 632, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 349, Annandale, J A S Bengal, 1904, p 208, and Mem A S Bengal, 1, 1906, p 194, Green, Spol Zeyl ii, 1905, p 205, Wall, ibid 1907, p 174, and J Bombay N H S xviii, 1907, p 110, and xix, 1909, p 102, col pl, and xx, 1911, p 1034, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, ii, p 74, Cernov, C R Acad Sci Leningrad (n.s.), iii, 1935, p 189 — *Ophites striatus*, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 147, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 612, Ingridby, ibid xxxix, 1923, p 127

Coluber malignus Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vii, p 46 (based on Russell's pl xvi)

Lycodon galathea Daudin, 1803, l.c.s p 55 (based on Russell's pl xxvi)

? *Lycodon napes* Dum & Bib 1854, Erp Gen vii, p 384 (Indes Orientales Paris)

Snout projecting beyond the lower jaw anterior nasal usually larger than the posterior, loreal in contact with the

internasal, not touching the eye, a preocular, temporals 2+3, rarely 1+2, 8 supralabials, anterior pair of genials larger than the posterior. Scales in 17 17:15 rows, smooth V South of lat 20°, 154-166, north of lat 20°, 163-195, C South of lat 20°, 35-50, north of lat 20°, 44-58, A 2. The lowest caudal count (35) is from Ceylon, the highest ventral count (195) from the Perso-Baluchistan frontier.

Hemipenis as in *jara*

Dark brown or blackish above with white or yellow cross-bars, which expand laterally and usually also dorsally, on the sides of the body anteriorly the expansions enclose triangular spots, on the posterior part the bars are narrower and closer together, and on the sides break up to form reticulations, a white bar on the nape present or absent, upper lips and lower parts uniform white.

Total length ♀ 370, tail 60 mm

Range Ceylon, India as far east as Chota Nagpur, north to the Punjab (Agra, Lahore, Simla), Sind, Baluchistan, N W F Provinces and westwards to Transcaspia.

According to Wall, *L. striatus* is found in the plains and in the hills up to 2,000 feet altitude, and in certain parts of India is comparatively common. Ingoldby (1923), on the other hand, records it in Waziristan at 3,600 and 5,000 feet. Eggs, 2 to 4 in number, 33×8 mm in size, are laid in July and August. Wall states that it is timid in disposition and that he has never known one to strike, no matter what the provocation. Usually it makes no endeavour to escape, but coils itself up, and if touched or teased hides its head beneath its coils.

183 *Lycodon flavomaculatus*.

Lycodon flavomaculatus Wall, 1907, J. Bombay N H S xvii, p 612, pl — (Oudī and Kirkee London)—*Ophites flavomaculatus*, ibid xxix, 1923, p 613

Differs from *striatus* in having 9 supralabials instead of 8, in the characters of the hemipenis, and in colour pattern. Black above, with a series of small roundish or triangular, yellow, vertebral spots, opposite which bars of the same colour descend and broaden to form a reticulation on the flanks. V 170-183, C 53-63.

Hemipenis extending to the 15th caudal plate, forked at the tip, the distal $\frac{1}{3}$ is beset with large papillæ, the remainder of the organ is spinose, those opposite the sulcus being the largest.

Range Western Ghats (Nasik, Oudī, Kirkee, Poona, Deolali, Dharwāī, Sanghī), Berār (Buldana).

A rare snake

184 *Lycodon mackinnoni*.

Lycodon mackinnoni Wall, 1906, J Bombay N H S xvii, p 29, fig head (Mussooree. London) — *Ophites mackinnoni*, Wall, ibid. xxix, 1923, p 614

Snout projecting beyond the lower jaw, posterior nasal distinctly smaller than the anterior, loreal extensively in contact with the internasal, not touching the eye (united with the prefrontal in the type), a preocular, temporals 1+2 or 2+3, 8 supralabials, anterior genials larger than the posterior. Scales in 17 17.15 rows, smooth V 163-187, feebly angulate laterally, C 48-56; A 2

The hemipenis can be divided into two parts, a distal transversely flounced portion and a proximal in which there are a few, very large spines

Dark brown or chocolate above, with a network of white lines, the light colour being confined to the edges and tips of the scales; uniform white below or the ventrals edged with brown

Total length ♀ 365, tail 65 mm.

Range Western Himalayas (Mussooree, Almora, Muktesar near Naini Tal).

185 *Lycodon aulicus*.

COMMON WOLF SNAKE

Russell, Ind Serp ii, 1801, p 41, pl xxxvii (Java), and p 42, pl xxxix (India)

Coluber aulicus Linn, 1754, Mus Adolph Frider i, p 29, pl xii, fig 2 ("America". type in Stockholm), and 1758, Syst Nat 10th Edit p. 220 — *Lycodon aulicus*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind. 1864, p 316, Blyth, Zool Andamans, 1863, p 365, Stoliczka J A S Bengal, xxxix, 1870, p 201, Murray, Zool Sind, 1884, p 383; Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 294 and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p. 352, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 131, Andersson, Bihang K Sven Vet Akad Stockholm, xxvi, 1899, 6, iv, p 16, Laidlaw, Fauna Mald Lacc 1902, p 121, Wall, J Bombay N H S xv, 1904, p 706, and xviii, 1907, p 112, and xix, 1909, pp 87, col pl, 344 & 619, and xix, 1910, p 756, and xxvi, 1919, p 565, D'Abreu, Sn Nagpur, 1916, p 20, Smith, P. Z S 1927, p 221; Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 151, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 187, Prater, J Bombay N. H S xxx 1924, p 168, Fraser, ibid xxxix, 1937, p 473 — *Ophites aulicus*, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 151, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 613, and Spol Zeyl xii, 1922, p. 257, Herklots, Hong Kong Nat vi, 1935, p 199, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiii, 1939, p 155

Lycodon capucinus Boie, 1827, Isis, p 551 (based on Russell, ii, pl xxxvii)

Lycodon unicolor Boie, 1827, Isis, p 551 (based on Russell, ii, pl xxxix)

Lycodon subfuscus Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 50 (Bengal col sketch in Bodleian Library)

Lycodon atropurpureus Cantor, l c s p 50 (Mergui, Tenasserim)

- col sketch in Bodleian Library), and Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 356
Lycodon anamallensis Gunther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 318; Annamalai Hills London), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 293, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 351 — *Ophites anamallensis*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 613
Tytleria hypsirrhinoides Theobald, 1868, Cat Rept Asiat Soc Mus p 66 (Andaman Islands Calcutta, in part)
Lycodon aulicus oligozonatus Wall, 1909, J Bombay N H S xix, p 89 (Cannanore, S India)

Snout more or less spatulate and projecting beyond the lower jaw, anterior and posterior nasals usually subequal,

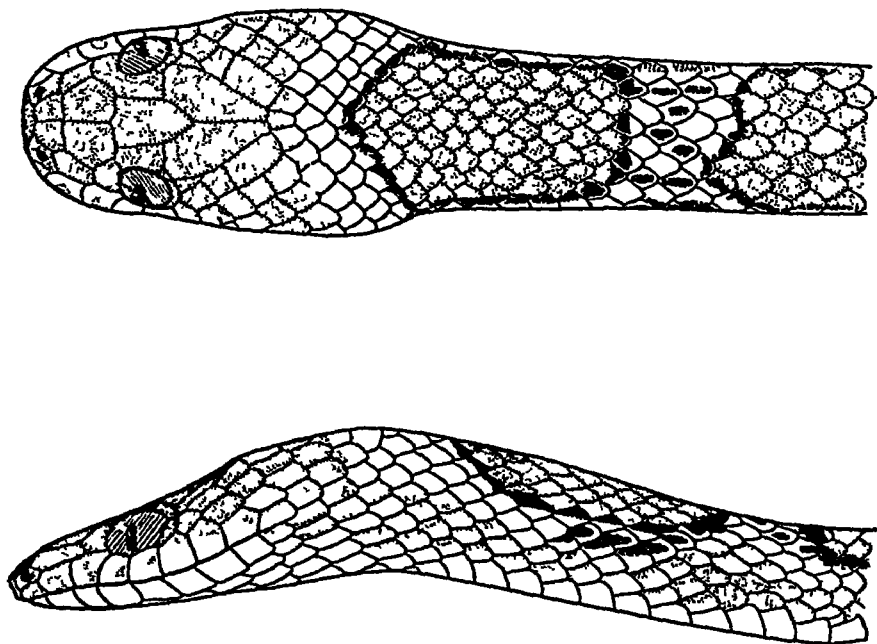


Fig 89 — *Lycodon aulicus*, $\times 2$ (B.M 1908 6 23 15)

loreal in good contact with the internasal, not touching the eye; 1 preocular, temporals variable, usually 2+3, 9 supralabials, anterior pair of genials a little larger than the posterior Scales in 17 17 15 rows, smooth V 172-214, strongly angulate laterally, C 57-80, A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, forked near the tip, the distal $\frac{1}{2}$ is calyculate, the calyces being transversely arranged, the remainder of the organ has longitudinal folds which are beset with more or less distinct spines, starting from the calyculate portion of the organ and extending about half-way down, are two prominent folds composed of a number of short, fleshy papillæ

Two races can be distinguished —

I *Lycodon aulicus aulicus*

Brown or greyish-brown above, with from 12–19 white cross-bars which expand laterally or bifurcate, enclosing triangular patches; the bars may be pure white or heavily speckled with brown, they are sometimes reduced to short vertebral spots, a triangular whitish blotch on each side of the occiput, or the two confluent with one another, usually present, upper lip white or spotted with brown

Ceylon, India, Nepal; Assam, Burma, north of lat 17°

II *Lycodon aulicus capucinus*

Brown or purplish-brown above, with more or less distinct fine white or yellow reticulations, a whitish blotch on the occiput as in I, labials white, some or all of them with a brown spot. The light reticulations are occasionally confined to the interstitial skin, so that the snake looks at first sight uniform brown

Burma south of lat 24°; Siam, Southern French Indo-China, Hong Kong; The Andaman and Nicobar Islands

In occasional individuals of both forms the white markings are lost entirely so that the specimen is uniform brown above, white below (*unicolor* Boie).

In hatchlings from the Andaman Islands the reticulated pattern is very conspicuous, the light colour being much more widely distributed, the adult is uniform brown above, except for a slight reticulation on the forepart of the body

Range of the species Ceylon, the Maldive Is, the whole of India, extending west to Sind and north to the Himalayas (Kangra district, Nepal, Sikkim), the whole of Indo-China; Hong Kong; Southern China; the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago, as far south as Timor, the Andaman and Nicobar Is, Celebes and the Philippines, Mauritius (introduced).

Total length ♂ 760, tail 145, ♀ 700, tail 120 mm

The commonest and most widely distributed of all the Wolf Snakes. Its fondness for entering and living in human habitations and the liability of being transported in cargoes has, no doubt, aided its dispersal. From 3 to 11 eggs are laid at a time, and possibly it breeds twice during the year. Wall, writing of Indian specimens, records that he has examined gravid females in all the first seven months of the year, the eggs were laid in the months from February to July, and "after mating, the pair do not dissolve partnership for a long time, if they do so at all". In Spol Zeyl (1922) he records finding a gravid individual in November. Herklots (1935) writing from Hong-kong records a female that laid 4 eggs on August 19, which were hatched out on September 23 (35 days later). During that time the female "was nearly

always observed to be curled on top of them" The young when born measure from 140-180 mm in length

Geckos seem to form the main part of its food, other lizards, particularly Scinks, come next, mice and frogs have also been recorded as part of its diet

I have placed *L. subfuscus* and *L. atropurpureus*, both of Cantor, in the synonymy of this species The sketch of *subfuscus* is a good illustration of Var. I of this snake, that of *atropurpureus* of Var. II The ventral counts, 245 for *subfuscus* and 257 for *atropurpureus* may be an error, no Oriental species of *Lycodon* having so high a ventral count In his MS Cantor states that *L. atropurpureus* is very common on the Tenasserim coast and often enters houses

Variation *L. anamallensis* appears to be an aberrant example of *L. aulicus*, differing in having the loreal divided into an anterior and a posterior part, and an undivided anal shield; another specimen from the Wynad (B M, 74 ± 29 958) has two loreals on one side but only one on the other, a specimen from Ceylon (B M - vicinity of Candy) has an undivided anal

186 *Lycodon fasciatus*.

Ophites fasciatus Anderson, 1879, Anat Zool Res W Yunnan, p 827, pl lxxviii, fig 1 (Ponsee [Pangsai], Yunnan), Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 614 — *Lycodon fasciatus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 293, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 358, Wall & Evans, J. Bombay N H S xiii, 1900, p 372, Evans, *ibid* xvi, 1904, p 169, Wall, *ibid* xviii, 1908, pp 324 and 779, and xx, 1911, p 948, col pl, and xxx, 1925, p 812, and xxxi, 1926, p 562, Schmidt, Bull Amer. Mus Nat Hist lv, 1927, p 523, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 188, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 153, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S. xiii, 1939, p 156

Snout projecting beyond the lower jaw, posterior nasal larger than the anterior, loreal touching the eye, well separated from the internasal, temporals 2+3, 8 supralabials Scales in 17.17 15 rows, the outer smooth, the median 5-7 rows feebly, but distinctly, keeled V 197-220, feebly angulate laterally, C 69-94; A 1

Hemipenis extending to the 8th caudal plate, it is spinose throughout, the spines being small and closely set, except at the proximal end, where they are much larger and fewer in number The sulcus edges are strongly raised and spinose

Black or purplish-black above, with yellowish cross-bars of irregular outline, 28 to 42 in number on the body, best marked anteriorly, in the young the dark colour of the back extends round the body, forming complete annuli, in the adult these are incomplete, belly blotched and powdered with black, hinder part of the head white in the young, in the adult the light cross-bars have a dark median stippling

Two specimens in the Natural History Museum, Paris, from S E Tibet, exact locality unknown, have 46 and 49 cross-bars on the body respectively

Total length ♂ 850, tail 170 mm (934 mm., Wall).

Range The Eastern Himalayas, Assam, S E Tibet, Burma, Siam (Tawkawbee, 9 miles S of Um Pang, lat 16° N, long 98° 75' E), Yunnan, Upper Laos; W China

Apparently not uncommon in the hilly districts of Assam and Upper Burma.

A hill species found at altitudes ranging from 3,000 to 7,000 feet, usually in bushes or trees. The eggs vary in number from 4 to 14. Its food consists chiefly of lizards and snakes

187 *Lycodon paucifasciatus* Rendahl, sp. nov.

Internasals $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the prefrontals, a preocular; temporals 2+3, 8 supralabials. Scales in 19 rows, the seven median rows keeled at mid-body. V. 219, distinctly angulate laterally, C 90

Black above, with whitish annuli of irregular outline, 14 on the body and 8 on the tail; below whitish with greyish variegations, best marked on the hinder part of the body and tail, a white bar across the hinder part of the head

Total length 763 mm

This new species, which differs from all other members of the genus in having 19 scale rows, was described to me by letter by Prof Rendahl of the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm

It is from Thua Lun, Annam, 50 km south of Hué

Genus CERCASPIS.

Cercaspis Wagler, 1830, Syst Amph p 191 (type *Hurria carinatus* Kuhl), Dum & Bib, Erp Gen vii, 1854, p 390, Günther, Rept Brit. Ind 1864, p 323, Wall, Spol Zeyl xi, 1921, p 404

Lycodon, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 291.

Dentition and general appearance as in *Lycodon*, but differing in the following characters.—Scales in 19 rows, strongly keeled, subcaudals single, prezygapophyses of the dorsal vertebræ extended and forming strong lateral expansions; neural spines expanded and divided into two by a longitudinal groove* (fig 90)

The strongly dilated prezygapophyses of the vertebræ can be readily felt, without dissection, as a ridge along each side of the back.

A single species.

Wall was the first to point out (1921) the unusual character of the vertebræ of this snake

* Found also in the S American *Xenopholis*

188 *Cercaspls carinatus*.

Hurria carinata Kuhl, 1820, Beitr Zool Vergl Anat p 95 (no type loc given)—*Cercaspls carinatus*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 324, Wall, Spol Zeyl xi, 1921, pp 399, 404, and xiii, 1924, p 77, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 162, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 614—*Lycodon carinatus*, Boulenger, F. B I 1890, p 297, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 358

Head elongate, depressed, snout broad, nostril between two nasals, the anterior smaller than the posterior, loreal

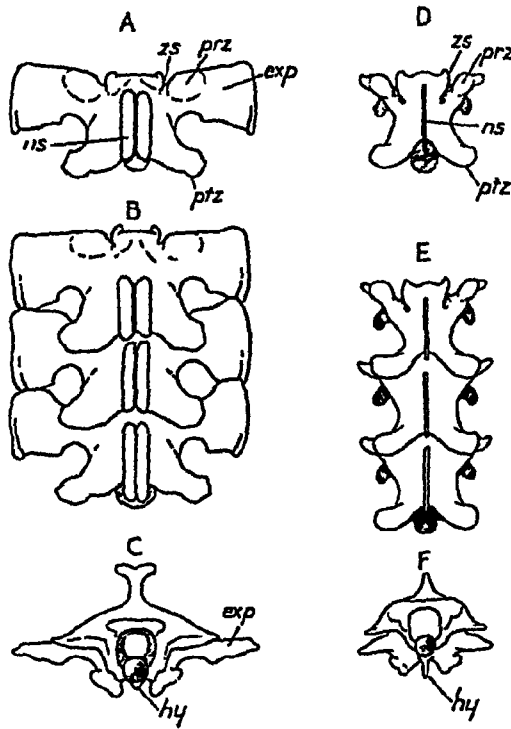


Fig 90.—A B Dorsal, and C Venter, view of vertebrae of *Cercaspls carinatus* D E and F Same of *Lycodon aulicus*
exp, expansion of prezygapophysis, hy, hypapophysis, ns, neural spine, prz, prezygapophysis, ptz, postzygapophysis, zs, zygosphenæ

elongate, separated from the internasal and the eye; 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, temporals 2+2 or 2+3, 8 or 9 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye, anterior pair of gemals as long as, or longer than, the posterior, scales in 17 or 19 rows, strongly keeled except the outermost row, which is feebly keeled V 185-202, with a strong lateral keel, C 51-64, A 1

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, transversely falcate in its distal part, spinose in the remainder, the spines are comparatively thick and short, the largest ones being opposite the sulcus

Black with whitish or pale yellow annuli, these are much narrower upon the back than upon the belly, and are usually broader in the young than in the adult, in a fully-grown specimen from Punduloya, the dorsal bars have disappeared completely, hinder part of the head white in the young

Total length ♂ 730, tail 125 mm.

Range Ceylon. Found in the low country and in the hills up to 4,000 feet altitude. A common snake at Hopwell Estate, Balangoda district

Genus DINODON.

Dinodon Dum & Bib 1853, Mem Acad Sci Paris, xxiii, p 463, and Erp Gen vii, 1854, p 447 (type *cancellatum* = *rufozonatum*), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 360, Stejneger, Herp Japan, 1907, p 356, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 615; Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 197, Bourret, Serp Indo-China, 1936, p 158, Werner, Zool Jahrb Syst. lvi, 1929, p 58

Eumesodon Cope, 1860, Proc Acad Nat Sci Philad xii, p 262 (type *semicarinatus*)

Lepidocephalus (not of Bleeker, 1858) Hallowell, 1860, Proc Acad Nat Sci. Philad. xii, p 498 (same type)

Adiastema Werner, 1925, Sitz Ber. Akad. Wiss Wien, cxxxiv, p 54 (type *cervinum*)

Lycodon (in part), Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 291.

Maxillary bone extending beyond the palatine, bent inwards but not arched, or only slightly, with 5-7 anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated, or not, by a toothless space from the rest, 5 or 6 in number, the last 2 or 3 of which are larger than the others. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, eye moderate with vertically elliptic pupil, body elongate, scales in 17:17(19):15 rows, smooth or feebly keeled, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel; tail long; subcaudals paired. Hypophyses absent on the posterior dorsal vertebræ

Common characters, unless otherwise stated: Head elongate, depressed; nostril between 2 nasals; diameter of the eye equal to, or greater than, its distance from the mouth; internasals much shorter than the prefrontals; loreal elongate; 1 pre- and 2 postoculars; temporals 2+2 or 2+3; 8 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye

Range The Eastern Himalayas as far west as Sikkim, Indo-China as far south as lat 16° N, China; Japan

Eight or 9 species are known.

For the affinities of the genus see p 256.

Key to the Species

Body with white annuli of irregular outline	<i>gammei</i> , p 271
27 to 35 light cross-bars on the back	<i>septentrionalis</i> , p 270.
85 to 95 light cross-bars on the back	<i>flavozonatus</i> , p 271

189 *Dinodon septentrionalis*.

Ophites septentrionalis Günther, 1875, P Z S p 233 (E Himalayas or Khasi Hills London)—*Lycodon septentrionalis*, Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 295—*Dinodon septentrionalis*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 363 (in part), and iii, 1896, p 619, and Ann Mus Civ Genova, (2) xii, 1893, p 324, and J Bombay N H S xvi, 1905, p 235, Wall, ibid xviii, 1908, p 778, and xxix, 1923, p 616, and Rec Ind Mus 1909, p 146, Angel, Bull Mus H N Paris, 1929, p 79, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 162. Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H. Soc xiii, 1939, p 159

Dinodon septentrionale chapaense Angel & Bourret, 1933, Bull Soc Zool France, lviii, p 129 (Chapa, Tong-King Paris), Bourret, Serp Indo Chine, 1936, p 164

Posterior nasal larger than the anterior, loreal sometimes very small, well separated from the internasal and the eye,

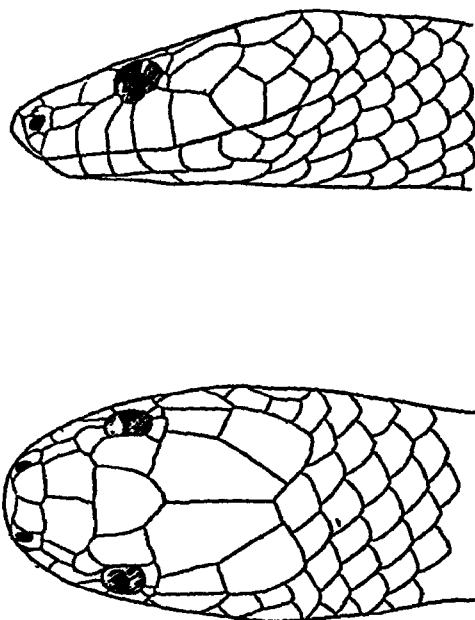


Fig. 91 —*Dinodon septentrionalis* (B.M 1908 6 23 101.)

scales smooth or the median 5-7 rows feebly keeled. V 207-217, angulate laterally, C 81-92, A. 1.

Hemipenis undivided, extending to the 10th caudal plate, calyculate and spinous throughout, the calyces being small, with a minute spine at each corner. At the extreme tip of the

organ the calyces are larger, and extending the whole length are six prominent folds, two of which border the sulcus

Purplish black above and on the sides, with narrow, white, transverse bars, 25-35 in number on the body, which expand laterally, on the forepart of the body the bars are about twice as far apart from one another as on the hinder part, lower parts white, sometimes spotted or barred with black, these markings being a continuation of the dark colour on the back; tail heavily marked with black below, hinder part of head white in the young, usually black in the adult

Total length · ♀ 1180, tail 190 mm

Range The Eastern Himalayas (Darjeeling district), Assam, Burma, Siam as far south as Chiangmai, Upper Laos (Chiang-Kuang), Tong-King (Chapa, Ngan-Son)

190 *Dinodon gammiei*.

Ophites gammiei Blanford, 1878, J A S Bengal, xlvii, p 130 (Cinchona plain, Darjeeling Calcutta) — *Lycodon gammiei*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 296 and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 358, Sclater, List Sn Ind Mus 1891, p 15 — *Dinodon gammiei*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 615
Lycodon fasciatus (not of Blanford), D'Abreu, J Bombay N H S 1911, xx, p 857, and xxi, 1912, p 1335, fig head.

Like *D septentrionalis* in general scalation V 206-214; C 94-104, A 1.

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate; the anterior half is calyculate, the calyces being small with a minute spine at each angle, the proximal part of the organ is provided with large coarse spines, parallel with the sulcus and separated from it by a short distance are two folds

Body with alternating black and light greenish-yellow rings with very irregular margins, 28 to 36+15 or 16 in number, head black with light spots on most of the shields, a large light spot on each side of the posterior part of the head

Total length ♂ 1150, tail 290 mm

Range Sikkim and Darjeeling district

Four specimens are known

As pointed out by Wall, the type has 17 scales on the neck and 19 at the middle of the body

191. *Dinodon flavozonatus*.

Dinodon flavozonatum Pope, 1928, Amer Mus Novitat No 325, p 2 (Chungan Hsien, Fukien Province New York), and Rept China, 1935, p 198, fig, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 482

Dinodon rufozonatum meridionale Bourret, 1935, Bull Gen Instr. Pub Hanoi, March, p 241 (Chapa, Tong-King Paris), and Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 161

Posterior nasal larger than the anterior, loreal well separated from the internasal and the eye, scales of the median

10-12 rows feebly keeled. V 225-240, with a distinct lateral keel, C 85-98, A 2.

Hemipenis extending to the 13th caudal plate, not forked, the distal $\frac{1}{3}$ of the organ has smooth, longitudinal folds, the middle $\frac{1}{3}$ is calyculate, the cups being extremely small, and in general arranged so closely together that they present a sponge-like appearance, the edges of the cups are spinose; this area merges gradually into a spinose one, the spines gradually increasing in size as they approach the base of the organ, the sulcus lips are formed by two thick folds, which are spinose, like the parts adjacent to them.

Black above, with light (yellow in life) narrow cross-bars, 85 to 95 in number on the body, which bifurcate on the sides enclosing dark spots, white below (yellow in life) with large black spots, these are subquadrangular in shape in the middle of the ventrals and more rounded on the outer margins, head black with symmetrical light markings, the most conspicuous being one from the eye to the angle of the mouth, and another parallel with it starting from the hinder margin of the parietal, labials edged with black

Total length ♂ 1440, tail 270, ♀ 1210, tail 220 mm

Range Mr Ronald Kaulback obtained 5 specimens in the Nam Tamai Valley, north of the Triangle, Upper Burma. Elsewhere it is known from Tong-King and Western China

Genus DRYOCALAMUS.

Nympha (non Martini, 1774) Fitzinger, 1826, Neue Class Rept p 29 (type *Coluber nympha* Daudin)

Odontomus (non Kirby, 1837) Dum & Bib, 1853, Mem Acad Sci Paris, xxiii, p 463 (type *nympha*)

Dryocalamus Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p 121 (type *tristrigatus*), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 369

Hydrophobus Günther, 1862, Ann Mag Nat Hist (3) ix, p 127 (type *semifasciatus*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 297

Nymphophidium Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 235 (type *maculatum*=*subannulatus*)

Ulupe Blanford, 1878, J A S Bengal, xlvii, p 129 (type *davsoni*)

Maxillary bone bent inwards and extending well beyond the palatine, with from 8 to 10 teeth increasing in size posteriorly. Head not very distinct from neck; eye large, with vertically elliptic pupil; scales in 13 or 15 rows throughout, with apical pits, tail moderate, subcaudals paired. Hypapophyses absent on the posterior dorsal vertebrae.

Common characters, unless otherwise stated — Head subovate when viewed from above, depressed; eye large or very large, its diameter usually much greater than its distance from the mouth; rostral broader than high, internasals a little shorter than the prefrontals, loreal elongate, anterior pair

DRYOCALAMUS.

of genials longer than the posterior, scales smooth; ventrals strongly angulate laterally

The general reduction in scalation is shown in the number round the body, the union of the nasals, the union of the loreal with the preocular and the number of labials

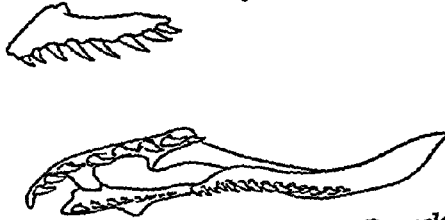


Fig 92 —Maxilla and palato-maxillary arch of *Dryocalamus davisoni*.

Range India, Indo-China, the Malayan region, the Philippines

Five species are known

A genus of small snakes, of gentle disposition and nocturnal habits They are good climbers

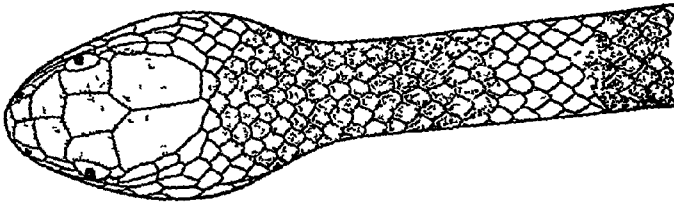


Fig 93 —*Dryocalamus nympha* (B M 92 11 3 4)

Key to the Species

Scales in 13 rows, 1-2 preoculars
Scales in 13 rows, no preocular
Scales in 15 rows, 1 preocular

VOL III

nympha, p 274
davisoni, p 274
gracilis, p 276
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192. *Dryocalamus nympha*.

BRIDAL SNAKE

Russell, Ind Serp 1, 1796, pp 42, 43, pls xxxvi & xxxvii (Vellore, London)

Coluber nympha Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rep vi, p 244, pl lxxv, fig 1 (based on Russell's pls).—*Odontomus nympha*, Günther, Rept. Brit Ind 1864, p 233.—*Hydrophobus nympha*, Boulenger, F. B. I 1890, p 298.—*Dryocalamus nympha*, Boulenger, Cat. Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 370, Wall, J Bombay N H S xix, 1909, p 287, col. pl, and xxix, 1923, p 616, and Spol Zeyl 1921, p. 399, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 166

Hydrophobus semifasciatus Günther, 1862, Ann Mag Nat Hist (3) ix, p. 127, pl ix, fig 6 (type loc unknown London).—*Odontomus semifasciatus*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 234

Dryocalamus nympha var *ceylonensis* F Müller, 1887, Verh Nat Ges Basel, viii, p 269

Nostril in an undivided nasal, or with a suture extending from it to the first labial, loreal in contact with the eye or separated from it by a minute preocular, with a larger one above it; 2 postoculars, temporals 2+2, 6 or 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye Scales in 13 rows V 200-236, C. 65-88, A. 2

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, the distal half is strongly flounced, the proximal has large spines arranged in longitudinal series, the line of demarcation between the two being well defined

Dark brown or black above and on the sides, with white or yellowish cross-bars expanding laterally, each bar on the back occupies 3 or 4 scales and is spotted with black, on the hinder part of the body they are often broken up; forming spots on the sides, upper lip, hinder part of head and nape and lower parts, uniform white

Total length ♂ 460, tail 90 mm (520, Wall)

Range Ceylon and Southern India as far north as lat 12° 30' on the Western side, and Orissa on the Eastern (Wall)

Found in the plains and in the hills at low altitudes, often entering houses

Russell's types, two in number, are in the British Museum They are now somewhat faded, but are otherwise in an excellent state of preservation

193. *Dryocalamus davisoni*.

Ulupe davisoni Blanford, 1878, J A. S. Bengal, xvii, p 128 (Nawlabu Hill, E of Tavoy Calcutta), and P Z S 1881, p 221.—*Hydrophobus davisoni*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 299.—*Dryocalamus davisoni*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 372, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 616, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, 1, 1914, p 93. Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 168

Nostril in an undivided nasal, loreal in broad contact with

the eye, no preocular, 1-2 postoculars, temporals 1+2 or 2+2, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, scales in 13 rows V. 233-255, C 90-108, A 1

Hemipenis as in *nympha*

Black above and on the sides, with white or pale green, irregular cross-bars, expanding laterally, anteriorly each bar occupies 2-4 scales, on the hinder part of the body they are narrower, closer together and often broken up so that the pattern becomes more or less reticulate, hinder part of head white with a dark median stripe, upper lip and lower parts white, tail heavily speckled with black. In the adult the white cross-bars often have a median stippling of brown

Total length ♂ 920, tail 205 mm

Range Siam between lats 18° and 11° N, Tenasserim (Tavoy); Burma (Rangoon), Cambodia; Cochin China, Southern Annam

Found in the lowlands. A captive specimen in Bangkok laid 4 eggs on May 31. They were very elongate, measuring 35×9 mm in size. Two young hatched out on August 10, and measured 250 mm in length. Another individual caught in September contained 3 eggs

194 *Dryocalamus gracilis*.

Odontomus gracilis Gunther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 234 (Anamallays London)—*Hydrophobus gracilis*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 298—*Dryocalamus gracilis*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 371, Wall, J Bombay N H S xix, 1909, p 290, fig head, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 169, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 616

Odontomus fergusonii Haly, 1888, Taprobanian, iii, p 51 (Ceylon)

Nasal shield more or less divided into an anterior and posterior part, loreal in broad contact with the eye, with a small preocular above it, rarely absent, 2 or 3 postoculars, temporals 2+2 or 2+3, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye. Scales in 15 rows throughout V 199-243, C 75-87, A 1, rarely 2

Hemipenis and coloration as in *nympha*

Total length ♂ 520, tail 110 mm (620, Wall)

Range Peninsular India (Anaimalais, Cuddapah Hills, Berhampore in Orissa), False I, off the coast of Arakan, Ceylon

A rare species

Genus **SIBYNOPHIS.**

Sibynophis Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept p 26 (type *Herpetodryas geminatus*), Stejneger, Proc U S Nat Mus xxxviii, 1910, p 102, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 81, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 42

Polyodontophis Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 301, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 181, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 82

Teeth very numerous and closely set, equal in size, bayonet-shaped, 30 to 50 in each maxilla, dentary bone completely detached from the articular posteriorly. Head slightly distinct from neck; eye rather large, with round pupil. Body cylindrical, scales smooth, in 17 rows throughout in all the Oriental species; ventrals rounded, subcaudals paired. Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column.

Common characters, unless otherwise stated — Rostral broader than high, frontal distinctly longer than its distance from the end of the snout, nostril between two nasals, internasals shorter than the prefrontals, 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, genials subequal in size or the anterior pair slightly longer, in contact with 4 infralabials, anal divided.

Range. The Oriental Region, Madagascar, Central America. Seven species in the Oriental Region.

A genus of hill snakes, oviparous, laying from 2 to 4 eggs at a time.

The 6 species here described are very closely related to one another, the diagnostic characters between them, apart from coloration, being found chiefly in the scales of the temporal region.

Key to the Species.

I Subcaudals 98 or more

- 1 anterior temporal, in contact with the 8th labial, 10 supralabials *collaris*, p 277
- 2 anterior temporals, the lower touching the 7th and 8th labials; 9 supralabials *chinensis*, p 278

II Subcaudals less than 80.

A Normally 2 anterior temporals

- 9 supralabials, parietal touches both postoculars, no black stripe along the side of the body *subpunctatus*, p 279.
- 9 supralabials, parietal touches both postoculars, a black stripe along the side of the body *bistrigatus*, p 279
- 8 or 9 labials, parietal touches upper postocular only [*grahamii*] p 280

B Normally 1 anterior temporal

- 7 or 8 supralabials, parietal touches both postoculars *sagittarius*, p 280.

195 *Sibynophis collaris* *.

Psammophis collaris Gray, 1853, Ann Mag Nat Hist (2) xii, p 390 (Khasi Hills, London)—*Polyodontophis collaris*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 302, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 184, pl xii (in part), Annandale, Rec Ind Mus. viii, 1912, p 46, Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 316, and xix, 1909, pp 340, 757, and xxix, 192^a p 598, Fraser, ibid xxxix, 1937, p 498 —*Ablabes collaris*, Stoliczka, J A S. Bengal, xl, 1871, p 430 —*Sibynophis collaris*, Smith, Bull Raffles Mus no 3, 1930, p 40, and Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 482, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 86, fig head, Bourret, Serp Indo-Chine, 1936, p 43 (in part), Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiii, 1939, p 115

Loreal squarish or a little longer than high, 10, rarely 9

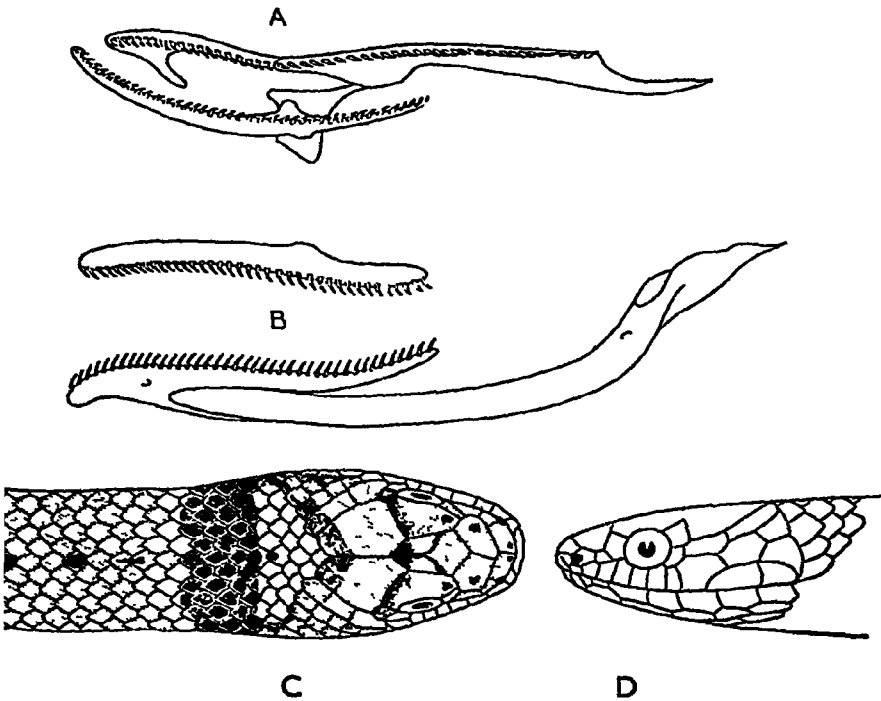


Fig 94 —*Sibynophis collaris* A Palato-maxillary arch B Maxilla and mandible C Dorsal, and D Lateral view of head

or 11 supralabials, 4th to 6th touching the eye, 1 anterior temporal, in contact with the 8th labial, parietal touches upper preocular only, or is just in contact with the lower V 155-186, C 100-125

* Schlater, List Sn Ind Mus 1891, p 17, has referred *Coluber colubrinus* Blyth * to the synonymy of this species I am unable to find the original description in any of Blyth's papers

The hemipenis extends to the 9th caudal plate and is not forked; the distal $\frac{1}{3}$ is calyculate, the calyces being small and with scalloped edges, the proximal $\frac{2}{3}$ is spinose, the spines gradually increasing in size, those at the base of the organ being very large. In addition the spinose area near the sulcus is divided into two for a short distance by an extension of the calyculate area. Pope has stated that the hemipenes of *collaris* and *chinensis* differ from one another, the material at my disposal does not confirm his view.

Brown above, usually with a vertebral series of small black spots, head with small black spots or vermiculations and two black transverse bars, one behind the eyes, the other across the occiput, nape black, bordered with yellow behind, upper lip white or yellow, spotted, and bordered above, with black. Lower parts yellowish, each ventral shield with an outer black spot or streak, anterior ventrals with a pair of median-dots in addition.

Specimens from Siam and Annam may have a lateral series of yellow spots on scale-rows 4 or 5, and the yellow border on the nape may be chevron-shaped, the apex pointing backwards.

Total length 760, tail 235 mm (♀). Males are smaller.

Range. The Himalayas as far west as Simla. Assam north to the Mishmi Hills, Western Yunnan, Laos, the whole of Burma and the hilly country of Siam; Annam (the Langbian Plateau and hills W of Hué), Koh Chang, in the Bight of Bangkok, Gunong Tahan, Pahang, in the Malay Peninsula.

Fairly common in the Eastern Himalayas and Assam, ascending to an altitude of 10,000 feet. Its chief food appears to be lizards, mainly scinks. Wall records finding a snake's tail in the stomach of one individual. Mutilated tails are frequent in this species.

196 *Sibynophis chinensis*.

Ablabes chinensis Günther, 1889, Ann Mag Nat Hist (6) iv, p 220 (Ichang, Hupeh, London) — *Sibynophis chinensis*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 82, fig head.
Sibynophis collaris sinensis, Bourret, 1936, Serp Indo-Chine, p 44.
Sibynophis hainanensis Schmidt, 1925, Amer Mus Nov, no 157 (Nodoa, Hainan, New York).

Similar to *collaris* but with two anterior temporals, the lower in contact with the 7th and 8th labials, usually only 9 supralabials. V 168–183, C 98–122.

Light brown above, the vertebral series of scales grey, with or without small black spots, head markings as in *collaris* but less distinct.

Range. Tong-King, Hainan, S. China to Formosa.

197 *Sibynophis subpunctatus*.

Ohgodon subpunctatus Dum & Bibr 1854, Erp Gen vii, p 58 (Malabar, Paris) — *Polyodontophis subpunctatus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 313, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 186, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 84, fig head, and J Bombay N H S xvii, 1907, p 823, and xxix, 1923, p. 599, Prater, ibid xxx, 1924, p 168, Fraser, ibid. xxxix, 1937, p 470 — *Sibynophis subpunctatus*, Schmidt, Pub Field Mus N H xii, 1926, p 171
Ohgodon spinapunctatus Jan, 1862, Arch Zool. Anat Phys ii, p 40 (probably Bangalore; Basel).
Encognathus humberti Jan, 1863, l c s. p 275, and Icon Gen xvi, 1866, pl iv, fig 1 (Ceylon, Genoa; not seen by me)

Loreal small, longer than high, 9 (rarely 8) supralabials, 4th to 6th (or 3rd to 5th) touching the eye, 2 anterior temporals, the lower wedged in between 7th and 8th (or 6th and 7th) labials, parietal touches both postoculars V 157–200 (Ceylon and India, south of Lat 14°), V 172–215 (India north of Lat 18°, Matheran, Nasik dist; C P, Bengal), C. ♂, 60–76, ♀, 54–63

The hemipenis extends to 8th or 9th caudal plate and is not forked, the distal $\frac{1}{3}$ is calyculate, the calyces having scalloped edges, the proximal $\frac{2}{3}$ is spinose, the spines being of almost uniform size and arranged in longitudinal series, from near the base of the organ to near the tip, and in a position almost opposite the sulcus, are two rows of large spines

Light brown above, with a vertebral series of black dots, sides of the body often grey, the colour bounded above by a dark line or series of dark spots, head and nape dark brown or black, lips yellow, uniform in specimens from Ceylon, usually spotted in those from India, a yellow transverse bar between the eyes and two broad ones bordering the dark colour of the nape, the dark colour extends forwards bisecting the yellow, yellow below, each ventral shield with a black dot near its outer border.

Total length 460, tail 100 mm (♀)

Range As given in the ventral counts

198 *Sibynophis bistrigatus*.

Ablabes bistrigatus Günther, 1868, Ann Mag Nat Hist (4) 1, p 417, and Theobald, J Linn Soc x, 1868, p 42 (Pegu, London) — *Polyodontophis bistrigatus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 304, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 188, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 600.

Like *subpunctatus* in scalation, but of different colour pattern and smaller size.

V 184–186, C. 73–75.

Hemipenis as in *subpunctatus*

Light reddish brown above, with a vertebral series of black spots, and a conspicuous black stripe along each side of the

body and tail on scale-rows 4 and 5, top of the head and nape black, the dark colour of the former bordered on each side with yellow, lips yellow, a pair of yellow spots on the neck, lower parts uniform yellow

Total length 300, tail 80 mm (♀)

Range. Burma (Prome, Pegu). As noted by Wall (1923), Roepstorff's specimen, said to have come from Camorta, in the Nicobars, needs confirmation.

A rare snake, known from a few specimens only

199 [*Sibynophis grahami*.]

Polyodontophis grahami Boulenger, 1904, Ann Mag Nat Hist (7) xii, p 132 (between Yunnan-Fu and Kut-sing, Yunnan, London) — *Sibynophis grahami*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 88, fig head

Range. The Yunnan plateau

200 *Sibynophis sagittarius*.

Calamaria sagittaria Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 49 (Tirhut, B and O, London, sketch in Bodleian Lib) — *Polyodontophis sagittarius*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 303, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 187, Wall, J Bombay N.H S. xvii, 1907, p 823, and xxix, 1923, p 599

Encognathus grayi Jan, 1863, Arch Zool Anat Phys ii, p 274, and Icon Gen xvi, 1866, pl iii, fig 3 (Himalayas Milan, not seen by me)

Encognathus braconneri Jan, 1863, ll cc p 274, and xvi, iii, 4, (type loc unknown, Wiesbaden; not seen by me).

Snout broader and more rounded, and frontal broader than in the preceding species, loreal small or very small, often absent, entirely united with the prefrontal or the posterior nasal, 7 or 8 supralabials, 3rd and 4th, or 3rd, 4th, and 5th touching the eye, normally one large anterior temporal, its lower margin wedged in between the 6th and 7th labials; parietal touches both postoculars V 197-238, C 57-70

Light brown above, with a vertebral series of black dots, greyish-brown on the sides, the colour occupying four scale-rows, and bordered above with black; head and nape dark brown or black, with a large elongate oval patch of yellow on each side at the back of the head, snout variegated with yellow, a yellow border to the nuchal patch behind, lips yellow, spotted with black. Lower parts yellow, with a black dot on the outer edge of each ventral shield

There are two specimens in the British Museum, presented by Cantor, one of which appears to be the type

Total length 305, tail 250 mm.

Range North-eastern India from the Central and United Provinces to Eastern Bengal Wall records it from the Western Himalayas.

Genus **NATRIX.**

- Natrix* Laurenti, 1768, Syn. Rept p 73 (type *N vulgaris* = *Coluber natrix* Linn), Wall, J. Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 600 (in part), Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 89, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 54 (in part)
- Tropidonotus* Boie, 1826, Isis, p 205 (type *natrix*); Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 341, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 192
- Rhabdophis* Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept p 27 (type *subminiatus*). Wall, l c s p 604, Bourret, l c s p 84
- Steirophus* Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept p 27 (type *chrysargus*)
- Nerodia* Baird & Girard, 1853, Serp N. Amer p 38 (type *spedon*), Wall, l c s p 602
- Amphiesma* Dum & Bib, 1854, Erp Gen vii, p 724 (type *stolatum*)
- Herpetoreas* Günther, 1860, P. Z. S pp. 156, 257 (type *seboldi* = *platyceps*)
- Fowlea* Theobald, 1868, Cat Rept Asiat Soc Mus p 57 (type *punctulata*)
- Bothrodytes* Cope, 1886, Pr Amer Phil Soc xxiii, p 495 (type *subminiatus*)
- Ceratothallus* Cope, 1893, Amer Nat xxvii, p 483 (type *vittata*)
- Diplophallus* Cope, l c s (type *piscator*)

Maxillary teeth 18–35 (for the species included in this work), posterior longest, mandibular teeth subequal, head usually distinct from neck, eye moderate or large, with round pupil. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical, scales in 15–19 rows (for species in the Oriental Region), more or less distinctly keeled, rarely smooth, usually with apical pits, ventrals rounded. Tail moderate or long, subcaudals usually paired. Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column.

Common characters unless otherwise stated — Eye large, its diameter greater or distinctly greater than its distance from the border of the mouth; nostril in a semi-divided, or completely divided, nasal, internasals shorter than the prefrontals, frontal $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ times longer than broad, as long as or a little longer than its distance from the end of the snout, loreal squarish or a little longer than high, 3, rarely 2 or 4, postoculars, 5 infralabials in contact with the anterior genials, which are shorter than posterior; anal divided.

Hemipenis reaching to the 7th or 8th caudal plate, spinose and calyculate throughout, the spines being more or less uniform in size. The lips of the calyces are short or very short, the spines originating within the cup, at the base of the organ there are from 2–4 large or very large spines.

Range Asia and the East Indian Islands, the north coast of Australia; Europe, Africa, North America. Some 80 species are known, 50 of which inhabit Asia and the Oriental Region.

I have maintained Boulenger's grouping of the species within the genus, as it presents the most ready means of identification. On the whole it is a fairly natural one although weakened by many exceptions. The extremes or end-forms

of each group are easily recognized, but there is no clear line of demarcation between them, one merging gradually into the other, *N parallela* is a case in point. To overcome the difficulty, in some cases, of ascertaining the type of dentation, and to facilitate identification, Boulenger supplemented his key with a table of the numbers of shields and scutes of the various species (Cat Sn 1, p 199). I have adopted the same plan.

In the *Natrix* group the teeth form continuous series, in *Rhabdophis* there is usually an interval between the enlarged posterior teeth and those that immediately precede them, as a rule, the greater the enlargement of the teeth the longer the interval. In *N stolata* there may or may not be an interval according to the individual, this species also combines the dentation of *Rhabdophis* with the nasal characters of *Nerodia*. The *Natrix* type of dentation is the most primitive, *Rhabdophis*, a polyphyletic assemblage, has been derived from it, and, in their turn, *Pseudoxenodon*, *Macropisthodon*, and *Balanophis*.

I have examined the type of *Phayrea isabellina* Theobald, Cat Rept Mus Asiat Soc Bengal, 1868, p. 51, said to have come from Bassein, Burma, and regard it as conspecific with the South American *Lygophis lineatus* (Linn.)

The following species have been met with just within the limits of the area covered by this work, or just outside. They are entrants from other regions and do not properly belong to the Indian-Indochinese fauna. The Chinese species have been dealt with by Pope (1935), and a full account of them will be found in his work. The two Malayan forms are referred to under *modesta*.

Natrix aquafasciata Barbour, 1908, Bull Mus Comp Zool 11, p 317, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 93 (Hainan and Southern China)

Natrix johannis Boulenger, 1908, Ann Mag Nat Hist (8) 11, p 244, Pope, l c s p 106 (Yunnan and Western China)

Natrix octolineata Boulenger, 1904, Ann Mag Nat Hist (7) xii, p 132, Pope, l c s p 112 (Yunnan and Western China)

Natrix ornateiceps Werner, 1924, Sitz Ber Akad Wiss Wien, cxxxiii (1), p 30, Pope, l c s p 114 (Hainan and Southern China), Gressitt, Peking Nat Hist Bull xv, 1941, p 186 (Hainan)

Natrix popei Schmidt, 1925, Amer Mus Nov, no 157, p 3, Pope, l c s p 123 (Hainan and Southern China)

Natrix baileyi Wall, 1907, J Bombay N. H S xvii, p 617, and xxix, 1923, p 602 (above Gyantse, Tibet)

Natrix tessellatus Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 233, Wall, J. Bombay N. H S xxix, 1923, p 604 (Europe and S E Asia, recently obtained at Dana Ghon, in N Afghanistan, recorded by Wall from Mastuj, N Chitral Territory)

Natrix mas Laidlaw, 1901, P Z S p 576, pl xxxv, fig 2, Smith, Bull Raffles Mus no 3, 1930, p 43

Natrix groundwateri Smith, 1922, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, iv, p 205, pl 8, and l c s 1930, p 42 (Isthmus of Kra)

Key to the Species

- I Posterior maxillary teeth gradually enlarged, internasals broadly truncate anteriorly, nostrils lateral (*Natrix*)
- A Scales in 15 or 17 rows
A nuchal groove, V 139-160 *nuchalis*, p 284
- B Scales in 17 rows, no nuchal groove
- V. 158-172; C 117-140 . . . *v. vinningsi*, p. 286
V 166-176, C 84-106 . . . *v. taronensis*, p 286
V. 118-126, C 61-73; T 1+2 . . . *sauteri*, p 287.
V 129-146, C 54-77, T absent *atemporalis*, p 287.
- C Scales in 19 rows, subcaudals paired or some of them single
- Maxillary teeth 20-24, 8 supralabials *parallela*, p 288
Maxillary teeth 25, 7 or 8 supralabials . *nucobarensis*, p 289.
Maxillary teeth 26-30, 9 supralabials
- a Labials black with light centres *lhasiensis*, p 289
b Labials whitish, the margins edged with black, or almost entirely black or brown *modesta*, p 290
Maxillary teeth 19-21, 9 supralabials; anal entire *peali*, p 291
- D. Subcaudals all single.
Maxillary teeth 22-23, 9 supralabials . . *zenura*, p 292
- II Posterior maxillary teeth gradually enlarged, internasals distinctly narrowed anteriorly, nostrils directed slightly upwards (*Nerodia*)
- A. Scales in 17 rows
Scales smooth . *punctulata*, p 292
- B Scales in 19 rows, keeled
- a 22-28 maxillary teeth; two oblique black stripes from the eye *piscator*, p 293
b 30-34 maxillary teeth, no stripes from the eye
- 2 anterior temporals, 3 labials touch the eye, V. 86-96 *trianguligera*, p 298
2 anterior temporals, 2 labials touch the eye, V 70-85 *percarinata*, p 299
1 anterior temporal, 3 labials touch the eye *bellula*, p 298
- III Last 2 or 3 maxillary teeth abruptly enlarged, internasals broadly truncate anteriorly, nostrils lateral (*Rhabdophis*)
- A A nuchal groove
- a Scales in 15 rows
Nuchal scales enlarged V 117-126, C 39-46 *angeli*, p 300
b Scales in 19 rows
Nuchal scales (3 median rows) narrower than those adjacent to them, a dorso-lateral series of yellow spots 2 labials touch the eye *himalayana*, p 300
Nuchal scales enlarged (in northern specimens), no dorso-lateral series of yellow spots, 3 labials touch the eye *subminiata*, p. 302

- B No nuchal gland or groove, scales in 19 rows
- a* Internasals much narrowed anteriorly, 2 light stripes down the back *stolata*, p 303
- b* Internasals not markedly narrowed anteriorly, no light stripes down the back
- 19-21 maxillary teeth *platyceps*, p 305
- c* More than 25 maxillary teeth
- One anterior temporal C 62-82 *beddomei*, p 306
- One anterior temporal C 88-97 *nigrocincta*, p 307
- Two anterior temporals V 136-144 *monticola*, p 308
- Two anterior temporals 9 supralabials, no nuchal gland V 150-165 *chrysarga*, p 308
- Two anterior temporals, 8 supralabials, a nuchal gland V 152-159 *callichroma*, p 309

201 *Natrix nuchalis*.

- Tropidonotus swinhonis*, var Gunther, 1889, Ann Mag Nat Hist (6) iv, p 221 (Ichang, China, London)
- Tropidonotus nuchalis* Boulenger, 1891, Ann Mag Nat Hist (6) vii, p 281 (based on Günther's specimens), and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 218, pl xiii, fig 1—*Natrix nuchalis*, Parker, Ann Mag Nat Hist (9) xv, 1925, p 296. Smith, Geogr Journ London, lxxx, 1932, p 479, and P Z S 1938, p 580, fig, and Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 482, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 108, fig head
- Natrix leonardi* Wall, 1923, J Bombay N H S xxix, pp 466 & 602 (Sintum Kaba, N Burma, London), and xxx, 1925, p 808
- Natrix nivalis* Schmidt, 1925, Amer Mus Nov, no 157, p 3 (Snow Mts Yunnan, New York)
- Natrix nuchalis collaris* Vogt, 1927, Zool Anz Leipzig, lxix, 11/12, p 283 (Yunnan)
- Natrix swinhonis nuchalis* and *N s leonardi* Bourret, 1936, Serp Indochine, pp. 56, 57

A nuchal gland (sacculated type), a nuchal groove, the scales on each side of it more or less distinctly enlarged and paired (fig 6, p 17) Maxillary teeth 18-23, gradually enlarged posteriorly, nostrils lateral, internasals truncate anteriorly, 1 preocular, temporals 1+1 or 1+2, 6 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 5th longest, 4' infralabials touching the anterior genials, which are broader but shorter than the posterior. Body rather stout. Scales in 17, rarely 19, rows on the neck, 15, rarely 17, at mid-body, more or less distinctly keeled except the outer row, which is smooth V 139-160, C ♂ 52-65, ♀ 41-52

Hemipenis to the 11th-14th caudal plate, forked near the tip

Olivaceous or greenish above, the scales sometimes edged with black, an indistinct dorso-lateral chain of small yellow spots sometimes present, pale greenish below, uniform, or

Table of Dental and Scale Counts

Species	Max teeth	So	Vent	Caud	Lab	Temp
I						
<i>nuchalis</i>	18-23	15	139-160	41-85	6 (3-4)	1
<i>venningi</i>	27-32	17	158-176	84-140	9 (4-6)	1
<i>sauteri</i>	22-24	17	118-126	61-73	7 (4-5)	1
<i>atemporalis</i>	28-30	17	129-146	54-77	6 (3-4)	Absent
<i>parallelata</i>	20-24	19	163-172	73-108	8 (3-5)	1
<i>nicobarensis</i>	25	19	160	120	7 or 8	1
<i>khasiensis</i>	26-28	19	145-155	94-110	9 (4-6)	1
<i>modesta</i>	28-32	19	148-168	83-132	9 (4-6)	1
<i>peali</i>	19-21	19	142-144	75-77	9 (4-5)	2
<i>zenura</i>	22-23	19	158-165	82-105	9 (4-6)	2
<i>punctulata</i>	26-30	17	134-154	70-83	9 (4-5)	2
<i>piscator</i>	22-28	19	126-153	70-97	9 (4-5)	2
<i>trianguligera</i>	32-34	19	134-145	86-96	9 (4-5)	2
<i>percarinata</i>	30-34	19	133-147	70-85	9 (4-6)	2
<i>bellula</i>	32-34	19	139-144	78-83	9 (3-5)	1
<i>himalayana</i>	20-29	19	157-176	79-95	8 (4-5)	2
<i>angeli</i>	22-23	15	117-126	30-46	6 (3-4)	1
<i>subminiata</i>	24-26	19	{ 144-164 } 157-173	{ 72-89 } 72-96	8 (3-5)	2
<i>stolata</i>	21-24	19	118-158	50-89	8 (3-5)	1
<i>platyceps</i>	19-21	19	177-217 (232)	86-107	8 (3-5)	1 or 2
<i>beddomei</i>	28-34	19	140-150	62-85	8 or 9	1 or 2
<i>nigrocincta</i>	27-29	19	150-170	80-97	8 or 9	1 or 2
<i>monticola</i>	33-35	19	136-144	78-92	8 (3-5)	2
<i>chrysarga</i>	27-35	19	155-165	84-101	9 (3-5)	2
<i>callichroma</i>	27-35	19	152-159	79-86	8 (3-5)	1 or 2
II						
III						

the scales spotted or edged or thickly powdered with black, particularly on the posterior part of the body and tail, a complete yellow collar present in the young

Total length ♀ 900, tail 160, ♂ 665, tail 145 mm

Range Upper Burma (Bhamo district, Nam Tama and Adung Valleys), S.E. Tibet (Di-chu Valley), Yunnan, Tong-King (Col des Nuages), Western China

A hill species found generally at high elevations, 5,000–6,000 feet. Apparently common in some districts

202 *Natrix venningi*.

Natrix venningi Wall, 1910, J Bombay N H S xx, p 345 (Chin Hills, Burma, London), and xxx, 1923, p 601, and xxxi, 1926, p 560, Venning, *ibid* xx, 1911, p 773

Natrix nigriventris Wall, 1925, J Bombay N H S xxx, p 588, pl (Huton, Bhamo, London)

Natrix venningi taronensis Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 482 (Pangnamdim London)

Maxillary teeth 27–32, gradually enlarged posteriorly, nostrils lateral or directed slightly upwards, internasals truncate and slightly narrowed anteriorly, as long as the prefrontals, usually 2 preoculars, temporals 1+1 or 1+2, 9 supralabials, 4th, 5th and 6th touching the eye. Body slender, scales in 17 rows, feebly keeled, the outer rows smooth

The hemipenis extends to the 8th caudal plate, not forked

Total length ♂ 605, tail 195, ♀ 680, tail 225 mm.

Two races can be distinguished —

I *Natrix venningi venningi*

V 158–172, C 117–140

Very dark greyish-brown above, with an indistinct chequering of small squarish black spots, a dorso-lateral chain of yellow spots in the young, sometimes persisting into adult life, lower parts yellowish, the shields heavily edged with dark brown, or entirely dark brown or black, head above with or without light vermiculations, an incomplete yellow collar present or absent

Range Upper Burma (Chin Hills, Bhamo district, Nam-ta Valley)

A hill form. Wall records finding tadpoles in the stomach of one individual

II *Natrix venningi taronensis*

Differs from the typical form in having fewer caudal shields, 84–106, V 166–176

Dark greyish-brown above, with an indistinct chequering of small, squarish black spots, a dorso-lateral chain of small yellow spots, lower parts mottled with black and yellow anteriorly, entirely black posteriorly

Described from 10 specimens obtained by Mr Ronald Kaulback at Pangnamdim (lat 27° 42' N , long 97° 54' E) and Aliwang, Taron Valley (lat 27° 42' N , long 98° 08' E), places north-east of Fort Hertz, Upper Burma

Most of them were caught in small mountain streams

203 *Natrix sauteri*.

Tropidonotus sauteri Boulenger, 1909, Ann Mag Nat Hist (8) iv, p 495 (Formosa, London) — *Natrix sauteri*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 125, figs ; Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 58, fig head

Maxillary teeth 22-24, gradually enlarged posteriorly, internasals truncate anteriorly, nearly as long as the pre-frontals; temporals 1+2. 7 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye Body rather stout, scales in 17 rows, feebly but distinctly keeled, the outer row smooth V 118-126, C 61-73

Greyish-brown above, with a dorso-lateral series of small, light (reddish in life), black-edged spots, which disappear on the posterior part of the body, lower parts whitish ([?] reddish in life), with a large black spot at the outer margin of each ventral shield, the spots forming a continuous line and separated from the colour of the back by a slightly lighter interval, head reddish-brown above, labials white, edged with black, the white colour continued backwards as a line on to the nape and converging towards its fellow

Total length 400, tail 105 mm (♂)

Range Tong-King (Tam-dao), S China; Formosa

Not uncommon at Tam-dao, according to Bourret The above description is drawn up from his material in Paris

204 *Natrix atemporalis*.

Natrix atemporalis Bourret, 1934, Bull Gen Instr Pub Hanoi, December, p 75, fig (Tong-King, Paris), and Serp Indochine, 1936, p 59, figs

Maxillary teeth 28-30, gradually enlarged posteriorly, internasals truncate anteriorly, nearly as long as the pre-frontals, temporal absent, or a minute one, between the 5th labial and the parietal, 6 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye Scales in 17 rows, distinctly keeled, the outer row smooth V. 129-146, C 54-77.

Reddish-brown above, the scales finely edged with black, and with two light, dorso-lateral lines or series of spots present or absent, whitish below, with a black spot at the outer margin of each ventral, these sometimes confluent with the colour of the back.

Total length 390, tail 115 mm

Range Tong-King (Tam-dao).

205 *Natrix parallela*.

- Tropidonotus dipsas* (non Blyth), Anderson, 1879, Anat & Zool Res Yunnan, p 819 (Yunnan, London)
- Tropidonotus parallelus* Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 345, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 223 (in part), Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 316, fig head, and xix, 1909, p 340 — *Natrix parallela*, Wall, J. Bombay N H S. xxx, 1923, p 601 (in part), Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 483, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiii, 1939, p 116
- Natrix biteniata* Wall, 1925, J Bombay N H S xxx, p 806 (Kut-kai, N Shan States - London), and xxxi, 1926, p 560, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 99
- Natrix clerks* Wall, 1925, J Bombay N H S xxx, p 809 (Kachin Hills, Burma, London), and xxxi, 1926, p 560
- Tropidonotus chrysargus* (non Boie), Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 345, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 258 (in part)

Maxillary teeth 20 to 24 gradually, sometimes rather abruptly, enlarged posteriorly, nostrils lateral, 1, sometimes 2, preoculars; internasals truncate anteriorly, temporals 1+1 or 1+2, 8 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye. Body slender, scales in 19 rows, the tips more or less distinctly bidentate, more or less strongly keeled. V 163-172, C 73-108

Hemipenis to the 8th caudal plate, forked at the tip

Olive-brown or greyish-brown above, the scales sometimes black-edged, and with 2 light, more or less distinct dorso-lateral black-edged stripes or series of spots along the back and tail; a short yellow, vertebral streak behind the occiput, a light chevron-shaped mark on the nape pointing backwards present or absent, a black streak from the eye to the angle of the mouth, labials yellow, uniform, or the shields edged with black, ventrals and subcaudals uniform yellow or with a black dot on each side, top of head brown

Total length ♂ 570, tail 140, ♀ 635, tail 135 mm

Range Sikkim, Assam, Upper Burma, as far south as lat 22°, Yunnan, Tong-King (Fan-Si-Pan Mts).

Wall (1925) has distinguished his *biteniata* (range Burma and Yunnan) from *parallela* (range E Himalayas and Assam) on the grounds that the former has teeth of the *Natrix* type, the latter of the *Rhabdophis* type. It is true that there are differences, but I do not find them as great as he makes out. The degree of enlargement of the posterior teeth does not vary greatly in the two forms, but while in *biteniata* there is no interval between the last two teeth and those that precede them, in *parallela* there is. The difference might be considered racial, but I prefer to regard the species as a border-line case.

Pope (1935) dealing with this problem writes "Finding myself unable, through lack of sufficient material, to determine definitely the relation between *biteniata*, *parallela* and *octolineata*, I am treating them all as distinct species. I believe, however, that a thorough study will make it necessary

to change this arrangement *N. octolineata* appears to be little more than subspecifically distinct from *bitæmata*, which, in spite of Wall's contentions, seems to be of uncertain status in relation to *parallela*."

206 *Natrix nicobarensis*.

Tropidonotus nicobaricus and *nicobarensis* Selater, 1891, J A S Bengal, ix, pp 231, 241, 250, pl 6 (Nicobars, Calcutta), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 192 — *Tropidonotus nicobariensis*, Annandale, J A S Bengal, 1905, pp 174, 175 — *Natrix nicobariensis*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 601.

Maxillary teeth about 25, gradually enlarged posteriorly; nostrils lateral, internasals truncate anteriorly, 1 pre- and 3 postoculars, temporals 1+2, 7 or 8 supralabials, 3rd and 4th, or 4th and 5th touching the eye Scales in 19 rows, all strongly keeled V 160, C 120, anal entire

Greenish-olive above, with 3 light, black-edged stripes The vertebral stripe extends the whole length of the body and tail and is strongly edged with black, the outer stripes, on scale-rows 2 and 3, do not extend beyond the body and are edged with small black dots, lower parts white, lips white, a dark temporal streak from behind the eye, parietals with a pair of small white spots

Total length 250, tail 177 mm

Known only from the type-specimen, a juvenile. The jaws are damaged and it is not possible to count the number of teeth accurately, but the specimen otherwise is in a good state of preservation

It was collected by Mr. de Roepstorff and was said to have come from Camorta in the Nicobars.

207 *Natrix khasiensis*.

Tropidonotus khasiensis Boulenger, 1890, F. B. I p. 344 (Khasi Hills, London), and Cat. Sn Brit Mus. 1, 1893, p. 223, Annandale, Rec Ind Mus viii, 1912, pp 49 and 53, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 317 — *Natrix khasiensis*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 601, and xxxi, 1926, p 559, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 69, fig head, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xli, 1940, p 483

Natrix githodesi Wall, 1925, J Bombay N H. S xxx, p. 587, pl. (Huton, Bhamo, London)

Maxillary teeth 26 to 28, gradually enlarged posteriorly, nostrils lateral, internasals truncate anteriorly, 1 or 2 postoculars, temporals 1+1 or 1+2, 9, rarely 8, supralabials, 4th, 5th and 6th touching the eye Body slender; scales in 19 rows, more or less strongly keeled, except the outer row, which is smooth or feebly keeled. V 145-155, C 94-110

Hemipenis as in *parallela*.

Dark greyish or blackish-brown above, with or without indistinct light dorso-lateral stripes or series of spots, ventrals and subcaudals yellowish, the outer margins brown, like the dorsal scales, or with a brown spot, top of head with light vermiculations and usually 2 small spots, one on each side of the interparietal suture, labials white or yellow in the middle, black on the borders, the yellow colour of the lips may be continued backwards as a series of spots on each side of the neck

Total length ♂ 570, tail 195, ♀ 600, tail 190 mm

Range. Assam (Khasi and Garo Hills), Upper Burma (Abor country, Nawng Hkai in the Nam Tamai Valley, Bhamo district), Tong-King (Chapa, Tam-dao)

Common in the Khasi and Kachin Hills

208 *Natrix modesta*.

Tropidonotus modestus Günther, 1875, P Z S p 232 (Khasi Hills, London), Anderson, Anat Zool Res Yunnan, 1879, p 817, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 343, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 229, Angel, Bull Mus H N Paris (2), 1, 1929, p 76 — *Nerodia modesta*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxxix, 1923, p 603, and xxx, 1926, p 560

Tropidonotus johannis (non Blgr) Smith, 1921, P Z S p 426

Natrix deschauensei Taylor, 1934, Pr Acad Sci Philad lxxvii, p 300 (Chieng Mai, N Siam, not seen by me)

Maxillary teeth 28 to 32, gradually enlarged posteriorly, nostrils lateral, internasals as long as or nearly as long as the prefrontals, truncate anteriorly, usually 2 preoculars, temporals 1+1 or 1+2, normally 9 supralabials, 4th, 5th and 6th touching the eye Scales in 19 rows, feebly or distinctly keeled, the outer 1 to 3 rows smooth, V and C, see table, A 2

Hemipenis as in *parallela*

Brown above with small black spots regularly arranged and a dorso-lateral series of small yellow spots which may be united to form an indistinct stripe, lower parts yellowish with black spots on the sides of the ventrals, sometimes forming continuous lines (Upper Burma, Cambodia, Annam), or with the median parts of the ventrals with small black dots (Kachin Hills), or with 3 series of squarish black spots almost entirely covering the ventrals (N Siam), or with the ventrals almost entirely powdered with black (Khasi Hills and the Triangle), a yellow stripe on each side of the head starting from behind the eye and converging towards its fellow on the neck, labials edged with black top of head with indistinct vermiculations

Total length ♂ 550, tail 185, ♀ 600, tail 140 mm.

Range Assam (Khasi Hills), Upper Burma (Kachin and Bhamo districts), N Siam, Cambodia (Kamchay Mts.); S Annam (Langbian Plateau), Upper Laos (Chieng-Khoung) *vide* Angel Found in the hills at between 2,000 and 5,000 feet altitude.

Natrix modesta, as I conceive it, is a widely distributed and very variable species. The variations in ventral colouring have already been given. The ventral and caudal counts are shown in the following table.—

Locality.	Ventrals	Caudals	No. examined
N Siam, Burma, Assam	148-168	110-132	19
Kamchay Mts, Cambodia	154-167	98-110	7
Langbian Plateau	149-154	83-104	6
Isthmus of Kra (<i>N. groundwateri</i>)	147-154	120-132	6
Pen Siam and Malay Peninsula } (<i>N. inas</i>) }	143-148	96-109	4

The caudal counts, owing to the number of docked tails, are far from complete. For comparison the counts of *N. inas* and *N. groundwateri* are included, as they are undoubtedly very closely allied to, if not racial forms of, *modesta*. In one example of *N. groundwateri* the anal plate is divided, in the remainder it is entire.

209 *Natrix peali*.

Tropidonotus peali: Selater, 1891, J A S Bengal, lx, p 241, pl vi, fig 4 (Sibsagar, Assam, Calcutta), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 214.—*Natrix peali*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 600.

Maxillary teeth 19 to 21, gradually enlarged posteriorly, nostrils lateral, internasals truncate anteriorly, distinctly shorter than the prefrontals, 1 pre- and 2 or 3 postoculars, temporals 2+2, 9 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, the 6th excluded by the lowest postocular. Scales in 19 rows, strongly keeled, except the outer row, which may be smooth, all the caudal scales strongly keeled. V 142-144, C 75-77, the anterior 4 to 7 single, A 1.

Hemipenis extending to the 9th caudal plate, not forked.

Dark brown above, with a narrow light dorso-lateral stripe and a broader pale one occupying scale-rows 1 and 2, below dark brown, each ventral and caudal shield with a yellow spot at the outer margin, and an indistinct yellow median series of spots, head dark brown above, the rostral and labials yellow, edged with brown.

Total length 525, tail 130 mm.

Known only from two specimens, both males

210. *Natrix xenura*.

Tropidonotus xenura Wall, 1907, J Bombay N H S xvii, p. 616, (type-locality not known, type lost), and Rec Ind Mus iii, 1909, p. 145—*Natrix xenurus*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p. 601

Maxillary teeth 22 or 23, gradually enlarged posteriorly, nostrils lateral, internasals as long as or shorter than the prefrontals, 1 pre- and 3 postoculars, 9 (10) supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, temporals 2+2. Scales in 19 rows, all strongly keeled. V 158–165, C 82 (♀) to 105 (♂), all entire; A. entire or divided.

Hemipenis extending to the 8th caudal plate, not forked.

Dark olive-brown above with indistinct narrow blackish cross-bars or series of spots, interrupted on the dorso-lateral line by white (or yellow) spots, whitish or yellowish below with dark brown squarish spots at the outer margins of the ventrals; tail more thickly spotted, labials white, the sutures black-edged; a white streak from behind the angle of the mouth on to the neck.

Total length: ♂ 630, tail 190, ♀ 590, tail 160 mm, another female is 660 mm in total length, but has lost a considerable part of the tail.

The type is lost, three more specimens were discovered in 1911 by Wall in the Indian Museum, labelled *modesta*, to which species it bears considerable resemblance in general coloration. They are from Cherrapungi in the Khasi Hills, Assam.

211. *Natrix punctulata*.

Tropidonotus punctulatus Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p. 247 (type locality unknown, London), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p. 350, and Cat. Sn. Brit Mus i, 1893, p. 228, pl. xiv, fig. 2, "Keswal," J Bombay N H S i, 1886, p. 173—*Nerodia punctulata*, Wall, J Bombay N. H S xxx, 1923, p. 603
Fowlea peguensis Theobald, 1868, Cat Rept Asiat Soc Mus p. 57 (Rangoon, Calcutta)

Maxillary teeth 26 to 30, gradually enlarged posteriorly; nostrils directed slightly upwards, internasals much narrowed anteriorly, as long as the prefrontals, frontal constricted in the middle, twice as long as broad, 1 preocular, temporals 2+3, 9 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 6th excluded by the lowest postocular. Body moderately slender, scales in 17 rows, all smooth. V. 134–154; C 70–83.

Hemipenis as in *piscator* but with only two longitudinal folds.

Brown or black above, with small pale markings or dots, two outer rows of scales, ventrals and subcaudals yellowish, with dark margins; upper lip uniform yellowish, frequently a light, curved, longitudinal streak on each side of the nape.

Total length: ♂ 540, tail 145; ♀ 630, tail 160 mm.

Range Tenasserim, Lower Burma (Pegu, Watiya, Rangoon, Amherst)

Largely aquatic in its habits, Keswal records that it enters salt water

212 *Natrix piscator*.

CHECKERED KEELBACK

- Russell, 1796, *Ind Serp* 1, p 25, pl 20 ("Paragoodoo"), p 33, pl 28 ("Naugealled Keaka", Ganjam), p 38, pl 33 ("Neel Koea"), 11, 1801, p 5, pl 3 ("Dooble"), p 6, pl 5 ("Dora"), p 16, pl 14 ("Ourdia", Bombay), p 17, pl 1, fig 5 A ("Neer Pamboo", Tranquebar and Ourdia, Bombay)
- Hydrus piscator* Schneider, 1799, *Hist Amph* 1, p 247 (East Indies, based on Russell's "Neel Koea")—*Tropidonotus piscator*, Boulenger, F.B I 1890, p 349 (in part), and *Cat Sn Brit Mus* 1, 1893, p 230, Wall, *J Bombay N H S* xvii, 1907, p 857, col pl, and xviii, 1908, p 317, and xix, 1909, p 611, and xxvi, 1919, p 560, Smith, *J Nat Hist Soc Siam*, 1, 1914, p 14; De Rooij, *Rept Indo-Austral Archipel* 11, 1917, p 76, fig—*Nerodia piscator*, Wall, *J Bombay N H S* xxx, 1923, p 603, and *Sn Ceylon*, 1921, p 91, Prater, *J Bombay N H S* xxxii, 1927, p 225, and xxx, 1924, p 167, Fraser, *ibid* xxxix, 1937, p 467, pl vii—*Natrix piscator*, Pope, *Rept China*, 1935, p 120, fig, Shaw & others, *J. Darjeeling N H S* xii, 1939, p. 117, Bourret, *Serp. Indo-Chine*, 1936, p 75
- Hydrus palustris* Schneider, 1799, *Hist Amphib* 1, p 247 (based on Russell's "Paragoodoo")
- Coluber anostomosatus* Daudin, 1803, *Hist Nat Rept* vii, p 140 (based on Russell's "Neel Koea")
- Coluber braminus* Daudin, l c s p 176 (subst name for *palustris*)
- Coluber umbratus* Daudin, l c s p 144 (based on Russell's "Double")
- Coluber mortuarius* Daudin, l c s p 187 (based on, Russell's "Naugealled Keaka")
- Coluber dora* Daudin, l c s p 191 (based on Russell's "Dora")
- Tropidonotus melanostus* Boie, 1826, *Isis*, p 206 (Java), Boulenger, *Cat Sn Brit Mus* 1, 1893, p 230
- Coluber bengalensis* Gray, 1834, *Ill Ind Zool* 11, p. 82, figs 1-3 (Bengal)
- Coluber rectangulus* Gray, l c s figs 4-6
- Tropidonotus quincunciatus* Schlegel, 1837, *Phys Serp* 11, p 307, pl 12, figs 4, 5 (India)
- Amphisma flavipunctatum* Hallowell, 1860, *Pr Acad Sci Philad* p 503 (Kwangtung Prov, China)
- Tropidonotus tyleri* Blyth, 1863, *J A S Bengal*, xxxii, p 88 (Andaman Is. type lost)
- Tropidonotus striolatus* Blyth, 1868, in Theobald's *Cat Rept Mus Asiat Soc* p 55 (Andaman Is type lost), and *Rept Brit Ind* 1876, p 175
- Tropidonotus quincunciatus* var Günther, 1858, *Cat Sn Brit Mus* p 66 (Kashmir, London)
- Tropidonotus sancti-johannis* Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 350, and *Cat Sn Brit Mus* 1, 1893, p 230, pl xv, fig 1 (based on Günther's var)
- Tropidonotus asperrimus* Boulenger, 1891, *Ann Mag Nat Hist*

(6), vii, p 281, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 232, pl xv, fig 2 (Ceylon, London)

Natrix piscator piscator, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 483

Tropidonotus piscator, vars *unicolor*, *lateralis*, *punctatus*, *obscurus*, *ornata* Wall, 1907, J Bombay N H S xvii, pp 860-863
Names proposed by the author to differentiate his colour-forms

Maxillary teeth 22 to 28, gradually enlarged posteriorly, nostrils directed slightly upwards, frontal constricted in the middle, twice as long as broad, internasals much narrowed anteriorly, as long, or nearly as long, as the prefrontals, 1 preocular, temporals 2+2 or 2+3, 9 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, the 6th excluded by the lowest post-

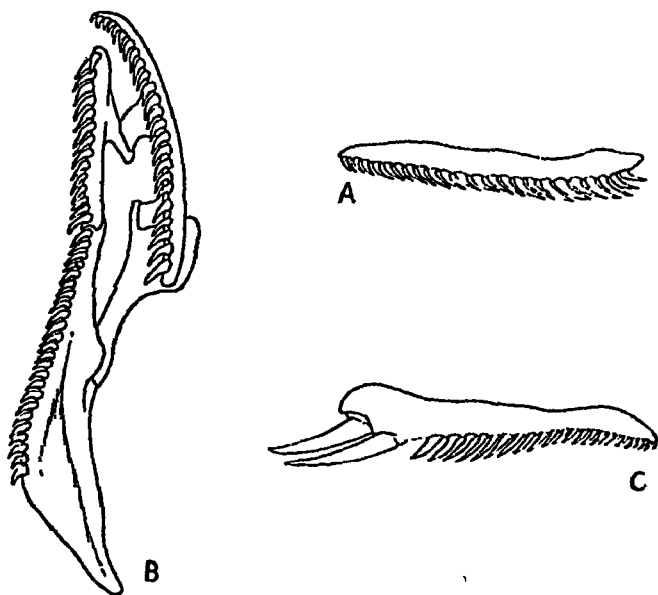


Fig 95 —A Maxilla and B palato-maxillary arch of *Natrix piscator*
C Maxilla of *Natrix submmata*

ocular Body rather stout, scales in 19 rows, more or less distinctly keeled, except the outer one or two rows which are smooth V 122-158, C (60) 70-97

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, forked for about one-third of its length, it is spinose throughout, the spines being relatively coarser at the distal end than at the proximal, extending for the greater part of its length are four prominent folds, there are no basal spines

Total length ♂ 990, tail 310, ♀ 1200, tail 300 mm

Four fairly well-defined races can be distinguished, each with its own geographical range The typical form of each is described, but departures from it are not uncommon

I. *Natrix piscator piscator*.

1. Scales more or less strongly keeled Yellowish or olivaceous above, with black spots quincuncially arranged,

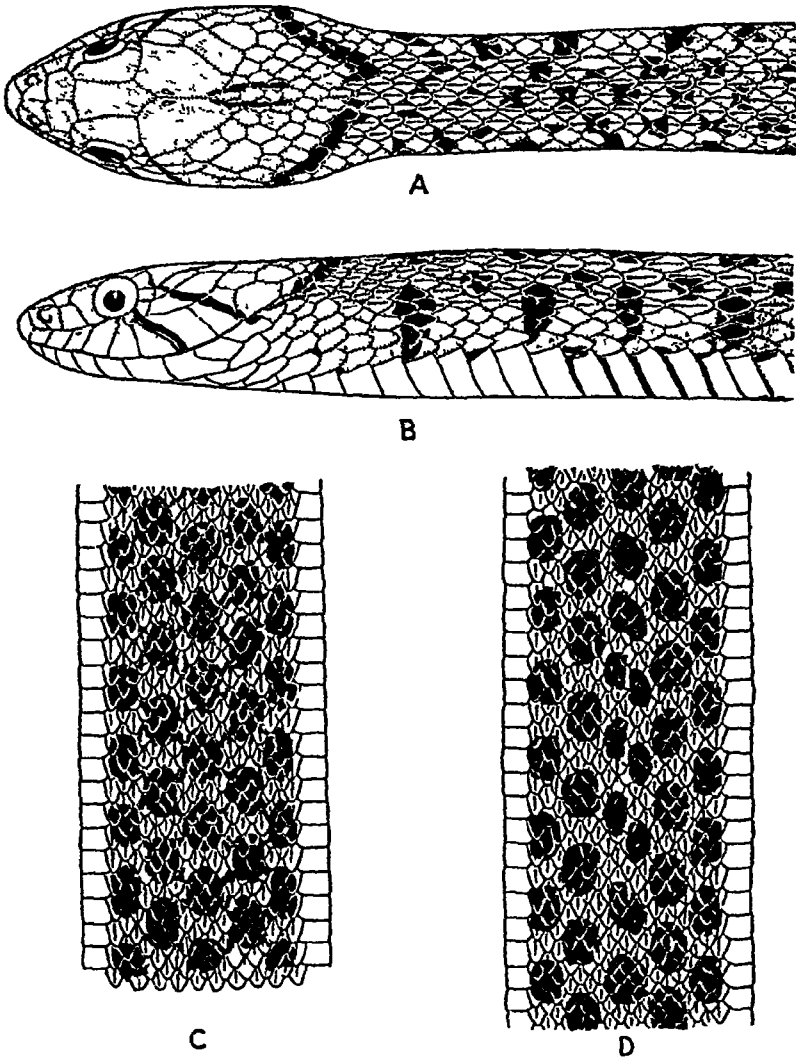


Fig 96—*Natrix piscator* A Dorsal, B Lateral, view of head (B M 39 7 1 5), C and D Dorsal pattern of *N p piscator*

belly uniform whitish or yellowish, head olive-brown above, with two oblique black streaks, one below, the other behind, the eye. The dorsal spots are arranged in five series, namely,

a vertebral, 2 dorso-lateral and 2 lateral. Together they form a chess-board pattern. They may be small or large, sometimes so large that they occupy most of the back, the snake then appearing black, with small yellowish spots, the dorso-lateral series being the most conspicuous. The black spots are arranged in transverse series of 5 (fig 96 C) or 6 (fig 96 D), the 6th being formed by division of the vertebral one. The number is not constant throughout the body and usually varies at different levels. The outer row is usually larger than the others, the spots there forming short transverse bars.

Range The whole of India to Baluchistan and the N.W.F. Provinces, extending into the Indo-Chinese region as far east as Myitkina in Upper Burma. See also under *melanzostus*.

2 Scales feebly keeled, sometimes almost smooth. Pale olive above, uniform or with black spots quincuncially arranged, or with two series of whitish spots along the body, belly uniform yellowish (*santi-johannis*). A pale form derived from the previous one by a general reduction of the colour pattern.

Range The Himalayas, North-West and Central Provinces, Upper Burma; Yunnan, Upper Laos.

II. *Natrix piscator flavipunctata*

Scales more or less strongly keeled. Olivaceous above, with black spots quincuncially arranged, belly whitish or yellowish, the ventrals edged with black, head as in I. The spots in this form are never large, as they may be in Form I, and they may be broken up and confined to the edges of the scales, forming a reticulate pattern. In transverse series there are 6 or 7, the 7th being formed by division of the vertebral spot into 3, small yellow spots, either as a dorso-lateral series, or a reticulate pattern, present or absent, this colour being largely on the interstitial skin.

Range The Indo-Chinese region as far west as Assam, Hainan, Hong Kong, Southern China.

In this form, and in I, a considerable amount of red or scarlet coloration in life is often present. It is confined chiefly to the interstitial skin of the fore-body and shows up best when the snake, under excitement, dilates itself.

III *Natrix piscator asperrimus*

Scales very strongly keeled. V 131-146, C. 73-93. Anterior half of body pale olive or reddish, with two series of more or less distinct, large, roundish or rhomboidal, alternating, dark brown, black-edged spots, which are partly confluent on the vertebral line and may form a sinuous stripe, hinder part of body dark olive, usually with blackish spots quincuncially arranged, sometimes a series of yellow dorso-lateral spots, belly whitish or yellowish, head as in I.

Range. Ceylon.

IV *Natrix piscator melanzostus*.

Pale, olivaceous, with 5 (4 on the neck) dark brown or blackish longitudinal stripes, extending the whole length of the body; the vertebral and dorso-lateral ones are more or less united and form a broad stripe, the intervening light area being inconspicuous, belly whitish or yellowish, head brown above, a black subocular and a postocular stripe, the latter bordering the brown on the temple. This colour form closely resembles the one that is found in the Malay Archipelago (Java, ? Borneo) and in which the five stripes may be quite distinct. It is the *tyleri* of Blyth, and the *striolatus* of Theobald, and is figured by De Rooij under the name of *N. piscator*.

A second colour form, found also in the Andamans, resembles the large-spotted Indian form (fig 96 C), the vertebral series of spots may be united to form a sinuous stripe on the fore-part of the body. This variety may be quite distinct, or combined with the other, being then like *melanzostus* on the anterior part of the body and *piscator* on the hinder part.

The production of the stripes is effected by the fusion of the dorsal spots in longitudinal series.

The evolution of certain forms of colour pattern is well shown in *Natrix piscator*. The production of an extra spot, as in 6 from 5, is not just a doubling of the vertebral spot. It is brought about by a shifting of the pattern of the entire half of the body at that point. It may be either forwards or backwards, it may be a gradual change or an abrupt one. In snakes which have annulate markings this shifting is clearly seen, some of the annuli being broken exactly in the mid-dorsal and mid-ventral lines, so that the snakes appear as if formed of the right and left halves of two individuals.

Russell has given 7 figures of this snake, all showing the chequered type of pattern. In vol 1, pls 20 and 28 and vol. ii, pl 15 the spots are small, in vol 1, pl 33, they are of medium size, in vol 11, pls 3, 5 and 14 they are large or very large.

Wall (1907 and 1921) has given excellent accounts of the habits of this common snake. It is essentially a snake of the plains, and of the hills at low altitudes. In Siam it is one of the commonest snakes in the rice fields and is seldom found far from water, to which it takes readily. It is diurnal in its habits and is extremely active in its movements, it bites fiercely when first caught but is quickly tamed. When cornered in the fields I have seen it spring at the aggressor, the whole snake leaving the ground in its fury. It feeds upon frogs and fish, making enormous meals of the latter when they get herded into small pools at the end of the dry season. Breeding appears to take place over the greater part of the year. Wall states (1921), "with the exception of the Python

and Russell's Viper is the most prolific snake I know " The number of eggs is said to range from 8 to 87 In southern India it aestivates towards the end of the hot weather, in the northern parts it hibernates during the cold weather.

213 *Natrix trianguligera*.

Tropidonotus trianguligerus Boie, 1827, Isis, p. 535 (Java), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p. 224, and Fauna Malay Pen 1912, p. 125, Anderson, J Linn Soc xxi, 1889, p. 335, Slater, J A S Bengal, 1, 1891, p. 242—*Natrix trianguligerus*, Wall, 1923, J Bombay N H S xlix, p. 601

Maxillary teeth 32 to 34, gradually enlarged posteriorly, nostril directed slightly upwards, internasals distinctly narrowed anteriorly, sometimes truncate, longer than the prefrontals, 1 preocular, temporals 2+2, sometimes 1+2, 9 supralabials, 4th, 5th and 6th touching the eye Body rather stout, scales in 19 rows, strongly keeled, except the outer 1 or 2 rows, which are smooth V 134-145, C 86-96

Hemipenis to the 6th caudal plate, forked at the extreme tip

Dark olive above with small black spots and a lateral series of large triangular ones, the points of which extend on to, and sometimes across, the ventrals, in the young they are strongly marked, but gradually become indistinct with age, and in old individuals may be hardly distinguishable, a dorso-lateral series of light spots often present, lower parts yellow, lips yellow, the shields sometimes edged with black

Total length ♂ 870, tail 225, ♀ 950, tail 225 mm

A Malayan species that extends its range into the Indo-Chinese region, as far north as Mergui

The two following species are very closely allied to it and appear to be its northern representatives, *N. bellula* on the Burmese side, *N. percarinata* on the Chinese.

214 *Natrix bellula*.

Tropidonotus bellulus Stoliczka, 1871, J A S Bengal, xi, pt 2, p. 432, pl. xxvi, fig. 2 (Prome, near Pegu, type lost), Theobald, Cat Rept Brit Ind -1876, p. 176, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p. 350

Tropidonotus trianguligerus, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1893, 1, p. 224 (in part)—*Natrix trianguligerus*, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xxxi, 1926, p. 560

Maxillary teeth 32 to 34, gradually enlarged posteriorly, nostrils directed slightly upwards, internasals truncate anteriorly, as long as the prefrontals, 1 preocular, temporals 1+2, 9 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye Body rather stout, scales in 19 rows, more or less strongly keeled, except the outer row, which may be smooth V. 139-144; C 78-83 (63, Stoliczka)

Hemipenis to the 8th caudal plate, not forked.

Dark olive-green above with indistinct black spots quincuncially arranged, and a dorso-lateral series of light spots or short cross-bars, lips white, the sutures edged with black, the white extending as a vertical bar in front of and behind the eye, sides of the neck and fore part of body with white vertical bars, ventrals white, the shields heavily edged with black

Total length 500, tail 145 mm (♂).

The type is lost, but a half-grown individual, agreeing in all essential particulars with Stoliczka's description, was obtained recently near Rangoon by Prof F J Meggitt Wall (1926) records a snake, from Minhla, Thayetmyo district, which is presumably this species

215 *Natrix percarinata*.

Tropidonotus percarinatus Boulenger, 1899, P Z S p 163, pl 17, fig 2 (N W Fukien, London) — *Natrix percarinata*, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, vi, 1923, p 201, and Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 483, Parker, Ann Mag Nat Hist (9) xv, 1925, pp 302 and 304, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 116, pl vi — *Natrix annularis percarinata*, Bourret, 1936, Serp Indochine, p 80

Maxillary teeth 30 to 34, gradually enlarged posteriorly, nostrils directed slightly upwards, internasals distinctly narrowed anteriorly, usually longer than the prefrontals, 1 preocular, temporals 2+3, rarely 3+3, 9 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 6th excluded by the lowest postocular.

Body rather stout, scales in 19 rows, strongly keeled, the outer row sometimes smooth V 133-157, C 68-85, for specimens from the Indo-Chinese region

Hemipenis extending to the 8th caudal plate, forked near the tip

Young dark olive-green or grey above, the colour descending on the sides of the body as V-shaped bars, often continued round to form complete bands, lower parts and intervals between the bars on the sides of the body yellow Adult olivaceous or greyish above, uniform or with dark reticulations or with dark cross-bars enclosing lightish spots, laterally they just reach the ventrals and are edged in front and behind with white, they may or may not bifurcate, whitish below, with or without indistinct dark cross-bars

Total length ♂ 720, tail 190, ♀ 940, tail 270 mm

Range Upper Burma (Gole Tutap) and Suprabum in the Triangle N Siam (Doi Su-tep), Tong-King, Annam (Kontum), Hainan, Southern China, Formosa

N. percarinata, according to Pope, inhabits the water-courses in forested, hilly country It feeds upon frogs and their larvae, fish and crustacea From 4 to 12 eggs are laid at a time.

216 *Natrix angeli*.

Natrix (Rhabdophis) angeli Bourret, 1934, Bull Gen Instr Pub Hanoi, April, p 151 (Tam-dao, Tong-King, Paris)—*Rhabdophis angeli*, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 102, fig head

A nuchal groove and gland, the scales on each side of the groove distinctly enlarged and paired. Maxillary teeth 22 to 23, the last two abruptly and very strongly enlarged, nostrils lateral, internasals as long as the prefrontals, 1 pre- and 3 postoculars, temporals 1+2, 6 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 5th very large, scales in 15 rows throughout, feebly keeled, the outer rows smooth. V. 117-126, C 39-46

Brownish above, with a dorso-lateral series of small reddish spots, best marked anteriorly, a pale (orange in life) A-shaped mark on the neck, its apex forwards, top of head brown, lips lighter, a black spot below the eye, another at the angle of the mouth, lower parts anteriorly pale orange, speckled with brown, this colour rapidly increasing in amount so that the hinder parts are entirely brown

Total length 430, tail 75 mm

Known only from the type locality

This very distinct species combines the dental characters of *subminiata* with the nuchal scale characters of *nuchalis*

217 *Natrix himalayana*.

HIMALAYAN KEELBACK

Tropidonotus himalayanus, Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 265, pl xxii, fig H (Sikkim and Nepal, London), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 347 and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p. 251, Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 319, and xix, 1909, pp 341 and 614, Venning, ibid xx, 1910, p 341—*Macropisthodon himalayanus*, Annandale, J A S Bengal, i, 1905, p 210—*Rhabdophis himalayanus*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 605—*Natrix himalayana*, Smith, P Z S 1938, p. 579, and Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 483, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xii, 1939, p 120

Tropidonotus himalayanus col var *ornatus* Wall, 1908, J Bombay N H S xviii, p 319 (Khasi Hills)

Natrix speciosus Wall, 1925, J Bombay N H S xxx, p 732 (Huton, Kachin Hills, London), and xxxi, 1926, p 561

A nuchal groove, more or less distinct, the three median rows of scales of that region narrower than the others, the vertebral row sometimes hidden between the two adjacent rows. Maxillary teeth 26 to 29, the last two strongly and abruptly enlarged; nostrils lateral, 1 preocular, temporals 2+2 or 2+3, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye. Body rather stout, scales in 19 rows, strongly keeled, those of the outer row feebly keeled. V 151-176, C 79-95

Hemipenis extending to the 7th caudal plate, not forked, is spinose throughout, the spines being of rather large size

and longer at the distal end than at the proximal end ; at the base of the organ on either side of the sulcus are two enormous spines

Olive above with small black spots, and two dorso-lateral series of small yellow spots or narrow cross-bars, rarely absent , lower parts yellowish, speckled with brown or black or nearly entirely greyish or blackish , a yellow or orange collar usually interrupted in the middle and succeeded by a dark cross-bar or triangular patch , labials yellow with black sutures , sometimes two oblique black bars, one below, the other behind the eye , neck and fore-body sometimes with a reticulation of black and yellow, the colours confined very largely to the interstitial skin

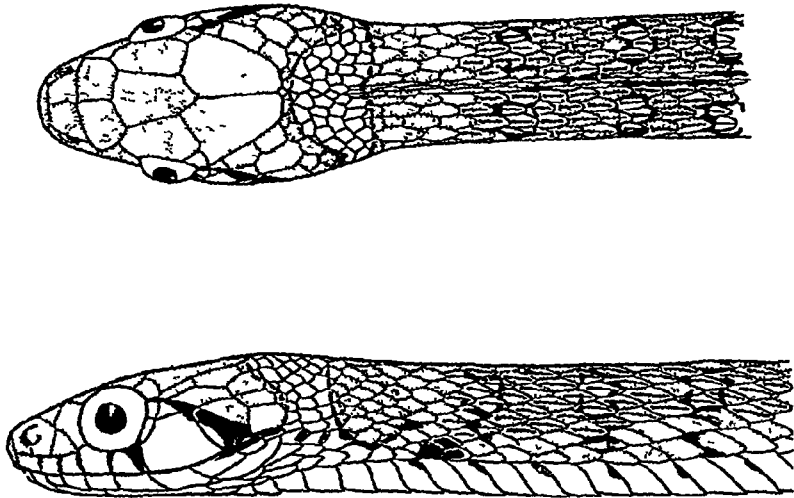


Fig. 97 — *Natrix himalayana* (B M 67 7 22 1)

Wall, writing of his colour variety *ornatus*, states —“ All the specimens were remarkable for the brilliancy of their adornment Besides the conspicuous yellow or orange collar with its broader posterior black border, these specimens were ornamented behind the yellow with an intensely brilliant chequering of vermillion, more or less apparent in the anterior half of the body, but reducing in brilliancy from before backwards ”

Total length ♂ 820, tail 215 , ♀ 1250, tail 305 mm

Range The Eastern Himalayas as far west as Sukkim , Assam ; Upper Burma, north to lat. 27° 42' and as far south as lat 22° N

Kaulback obtained two specimens in the Triangle on July 24th *in copula*.

218 *Natrix subminiata*.

RED-NECKED KEELBACK

- Tropidonotus subminiatus* Schlegel, 1837, Phys Serp n, p 313 (Java, Leiden), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 347, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 256, Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 320, and xiv, 1909, pp 341 and 618, Vennig, ibid xx, 1910-1911, pp 341 and 773, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, 1, 1914, p 15—*Rhabdophis subminiatus*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 606, and xxx, 1925, p 810, and xxxi, 1926, p 561, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 95—*Natrix subminiata*, Smith, P Z S 1938, p 579, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiii, 1939, p 122
- Natrix helleri* Schmidt, 1925, Amer Mus Nov, no 157 (Nodoa, Hainan, N York)—*Natrix subminiata helleri*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 132, fig, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xxxvii, 1935, p 239, and xli, 1940, p 483
- Natrix subminiata hongkongensis* and *N s siamensis* Mell, 1931, Lingnan Sci Journ viii, p 203 (Hongkong and Siam), Grossitt, Peking Nat Hist Bull xv, 1941, p 187.
- Natrix (Rhabdophis) laobaoensis* Bourret, 1934, Bull Gen Instr Pub Hanoi, May, p 169 (Lao-bao, Annam, Paris)—*Rhabdophis himalayanus laobaoensis*, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 90, fig head

A nuchal groove and gland, the scales on each side of the groove being distinctly enlarged and paired in the northern form (*helleri*), less distinctly, sometimes not at all, in the southern (*typica*) Maxillary teeth 24 to 26, the last two abruptly and very strongly enlarged (fig 95 C, p 294), nostrils lateral, internasals as long, or nearly as long, as the prefrontals, 1 preocular, temporals 2+2 or 2+3, normally 8 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye Body rather stout, scales in 19 rows, strongly keeled, the outer row smooth

Hemipenis extending to the 15th caudal plate, forked for nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of its length, there are no basal spines

Olive-brown or greenish above, almost uniform or with black and yellow reticulations, the colour being confined to the interstitial skin and the edges of the scales, an oblique black bar below the eye, belly yellowish, sometimes with a black dot on the outer end of each ventral shield, neck in life tinged with vermilion, the colour confined chiefly to the interstitial skin, young with a jet-black cross-bar or triangular mark on the nape, bordered with yellow behind

Range The whole of the Indo-Chinese subregion as far as Sikkim in the north-west, southern China, Hainan, Hong-Kong, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago

Two forms can be defined, a smaller southern form (*s subminiata*) and a larger northern one (*s helleri*) Morphologically they appear to intergrade completely with one another, but the extremes differ so much that they might well be regarded as distinct species The boundary line between the two is not clear, I tentatively place it at lat 22° N

N s. helleri does not range south of this line, but *N. s. subminiata* often occurs north of it.

I. *Natrix subminiata subminiata*

V 144-164, C 72-89 Total length ♂ 750, tail 185, ♀ 750, tail 180 mm Colour as described, the subocular bar usually very distinct The nuchal groove and enlarged nuchal scales are not conspicuous, and in specimens from the extreme south of Indo-China are usually entirely absent

Specimens from Malaya not included

II. *Natrix subminiata helleri*.

V 157-173, C 72-96 Total length ♂ 950, tail 235, ♀ 1300, tail 300 mm Adults may be almost uniform in coloration, the belly is powdered with grey, and the subocular bar is indistinct or absent The nuchal groove and enlarged paired scales are always distinct, juveniles are coloured like the typical form

N. subminiata is found both in the plains and in the hills Wall states that it is uncommon in the plains in Burma, but is common in many of the hilly districts Exactly the reverse obtains in Siam, where it is one of the commonest of snakes in the great central plain north of Bangkok, but almost unknown in the hilly districts

In Siam it is diurnal in its habits, and is very active, although it will bite freely when first caught, it quickly becomes tame It feeds chiefly on frogs and toads. When excited it will erect the body and flatten the neck in a marked manner

219 *Natrix stolata*.

STRIPED KEELBACK

Coluber stolatus Linn 1758, Syst Nat 10th Ed p 219 and 12th Ed 1760, p 379 (Asia, Stockholm), Russell, Ind Serp 1, 1796, pp 14, 15, pls x, xi (Ganjam), Andersson, Bih Sven Vet Akad Handl Stockholm, xxiv, (4) 6, 1899, p 12 — *Tropidonotus stolatus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 348, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 253, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xi, 1905, p 302, and xviii, 1907, pp 108 and 205, and 1908, p 320, and xix, 1909, p 615, and xx, 1911, p 603, col pl, and xxvi, 1919, p 562 — *Rhabdophis stolatus*, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 105, and J Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 605. Prater, ibid xxx, 1924, p 168, Fraser, ibid xxxiv, 1937, p 469, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 92 — *Natrix stolata*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 128, Cochran, Proc U S Nat Mus lxxvii, 1930, ii, p 24, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiii, 1939, p 121

Elaps bilineatus Schneider, 1801, Hist Amphib ii, p 299 (India) *Tropidonotus stolatus* var *erythrostictus* Wall, 1911, J Bombay N H S xx, p 606

* *Tropidonotus ruficeps* Peters, 1869, Mon Akad Berlin, p 444 ("California")

Maxillary teeth 21 to 24, the last two strongly and abruptly enlarged, nostrils directed slightly upwards, internasals much narrowed anteriorly, as long, or nearly as long, as the

prefrontals, frontal constricted in the middle, twice as long as broad, 1 preocular, temporals 1+1 or 1+2, normally 8 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye. Scales in 19 rows, strongly keeled, except the outer row, which is smooth, the tips more or less distinctly bidentate. V. 118-158, C 50-89.

Hemipenis extending to the 8th caudal plate, forked at the extreme tip, it is spinose throughout, the spines being closely set and of almost equal size, there are no basal spines.

Olive-greenish or brownish above with black spots or reticulated cross-bars intersected by two dorso-lateral yellow or buff stripes, on the hinder part of the body the stripes are best marked and the black spots least evident, the green colour being almost uniform dark olive, lower parts whitish, sometimes with a small black spot on the side of each ventral shield, top of head olive, uniform or the shields edged with black, lips yellowish, the colour extending up as a vertical bar in front of and behind the eye, the shields may or may not be edged with black. In the newly born the light dorso-lateral stripes are replaced in the fore part of the body by a series of spots.

Wall (1911) describes two colour forms as follows —

Forma typica. The margins of the scales, especially towards their bases, are adorned with blue-grey or pale blue. The colouring is concealed when the snake is quiescent and only comes into view when the snake under excitement inflates itself. It is most conspicuous, and may be confined to the anterior part of the body. This is the common type and may be met with anywhere.

Var *erythrostictus*. In this, the far more beautiful variety, bright vermillion replaces the blue adornment of *forma typica*, it is also more extensively distributed and is more or less evident in the quiescent state. Specimens so ornamented have a speckling of the same hue on the belly, and in some the throat is yellow or orange.

This variety is very local and appears to be confined to the coastal areas.

Total length ♂ 720, tail 180, ♀ 620, tail 170 mm.

Range. Ceylon, the whole of India to Sind and the N W F P. (Wall), southern China; Hainan, Indo-China as far south as lat 14° N, the Andaman Is.

I am unable to find any authentic proof that this snake occurs in Southern Indo-China or in any part of the Malayan subregion. In Burma it is recorded from Tenasserim, but without precise locality. I have seen specimens from Central Siam (Lopburi, Chainat, Paknambo, Gengko, Krabin), Bourret states that it is common in Tong-King, but that he has not obtained it in the southern parts of French Indo-China;

the records from the Malay Peninsula are old and have never been confirmed

Wall (1911 and 1921) has given excellent accounts of this little snake, and the following remarks are taken mainly from his articles

It is common in many parts of Ceylon, India and northern Indo-China, inhabiting both the plains and the hills to altitudes of 5,000 and 6,000 feet. It is diurnal in its habits and of gentle disposition, never attempting to bite when handled. It feeds mainly on frogs and toads. In India it aestivates towards the end of the dry season, re-appearing as soon as the monsoon breaks. In northern India it hibernates during the cold weather. Mating appears to take place during aestivation, and the eggs, usually from 5 to 10 in number, are laid during the months from May to September. The hatchlings measure from 130 to 170 mm in length.

220 *Natrix platyceps*.

Tropidonotus platyceps Blyth, 1854, J A S Bengal, xxiii, p 297 (Assam and Darjeeling, Calcutta), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 343, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus 1, 1893, p 248, Wall, J Bombay N H S xix, 1909, p 340, Annandale, Rec Ind Mus 1912, p 49 — *Rhabdophis platyceps*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 604 — *Natrix platyceps*, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiii, 1939, p 118

Herpetoreas sieboldii Günther, 1860, P Z S p 156 (Himalayas London)

Zamenis himalayanus Steindachner, 1867, Sitz Ber Zool bot Ges Wien, xvii, p 513, pl xii, fig. 1 (Himalayas Vienna, not seen by me)

Tropidonotus chrysargus, (non Boie) Wall, 1907, Rec Ind Mus 1, p 156

Tropidonotus firthi Wall, 1914, J Bombay N H S xxiii, p 166 (Chittong, Nepal, Calcutta) — *Rhabdophis firthi*, Wall, ibid xxix, 1923, p. 606

Maxillary teeth 19 to 21, last two fairly strongly and abruptly enlarged, nostrils lateral, 1 preocular, temporals 1+1, rarely 2+2, 8 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye. Body slender, scales in 19 rows, more or less distinctly keeled, those of the outer rows often smooth. V 174-217 (232), C 86-107. In one of the types the anterior 4 subcaudals are single.

Hemipenis extending to the 8th caudal plate, not forked.

Coloration very variable. Olive-brown above, with small black spots; rarely a dorso-lateral series of white spots, frequently two white black-edged parallel lines, or an elliptic mark, on the nape, or a white black-edged streak on each side of the head, or a black line from eye to gape, lips white or yellow, belly yellowish, with or without blackish dots, bordered

outside with bright red in life, frequently a black line or series of elongate blackish spots along each side of the belly, lower surface of tail frequently mottled with blackish, throat sometimes black.

I have examined the types of *Natrix firthi*, both hatchlings, and regard them as conspecific with *N. platyceps*

Total length ♂ 880, tail 225, ♀ 735, tail 165 mm

Range. The Himalayas from Kashmir in the west to Assam (Abor and Khasi Hills) in the east. A common snake in the Darjeeling district at between 5,000 and 6,000 feet

221 *Natrix beddomei*.

Spilotes vittatus Beddome, 1863, Madras Journ Med Sci vi, p 43 (Nilgiris, London)

Tropidonotus beddomei Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 269, pl xxii, fig E (*nom nov* for *vittatus* *presoc*), Boulenger, F.B I 1890, p 344, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 252, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxvi, 1919, p 560 — *Rhabdophis beddomei*, Wall, *ibid* xxx, 1923, p 605

Maxillary teeth 28 to 34, the last two abruptly and fairly strongly enlarged, nostrils lateral, 1 preocular, temporals 1+1 or 1+2, rarely 2+2, 8 or 9 supralabials, 3rd to 5th or 4th to 6th touching the eye. Body slender; scales in 19 rows, more or less distinctly keeled, the outer one or two rows smooth. V 140-150, C 62-82

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, forked near the tip

Olive-brown or brown above; a series of yellow spots, each one between two black spots or short transverse bars, along each side of the back, belly whitish, uniform or closely dotted with brown on the sides, labials yellow, the sutures edged with black, an oblique, yellow, black-edged streak from the eye to the gape usually present.

Top of head in the young very light brown, speckled with dark brown on the vertex, and with a white or yellow transverse bar behind the parietals; in adult life the head becomes entirely brown, but the transverse bar usually persists

In the young the yellow spots upon the back are more in evidence than the black ones, in the adult the reverse is the case. In aged individuals the markings may be almost entirely lost, the back then being almost uniform brown in colour.

Total length ♂ 525, tail 140, ♀ 690, tail 210 mm

Range. The Western Ghats south of Mahabaleshwar (lat. 17° N.). Wall states that it is common in the Nilgiris and the Wynad at between 3,000 and 7,000 feet. It feeds chiefly upon frogs and toads.

222 *Natrix nigrocincta*.

- Tropidonotus nigrocinctus* Blyth, 1856, J. A. S. Bengal, xxiv, p 717 (Pegu, Burma, Calcutta); Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 346, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 255, Smith & Kloss, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, 1, 1915, p 244; Smith, *ibid* iv, 1922, p 206 — *Rhabdophis nigrocinctus*, Wall, J Bombay N. H. S. xxix, 1923, p 606, Bourret, Serp. Indochine, 1936, p 91. — *Natrix nigrocincta*, Smith, P Z S Ser. B, 1938, p 579
- Tropidonotus eisenhoferi* Gyldenstolpe, 1916, Kungl Sv. Vet Ak. Hand Stockholm iv, p 11, fig (Muang Fang, N Siam; Stockholm)
- Pseudoxenodon fruhstorferi* Werner, 1925, Sitz Ber. Akad Wiss Wien, cxxxiv, p 49 (Siam, Vienna), Smith, Ann Mag Nat. Hist (10) 1, 1928, p 496 (= *nigrocinctus*)

Maxillary teeth 27 to 29, the last two strongly and abruptly enlarged, nostrils lateral, 1, sometimes 2, preoculars, temporals 2+2, rarely 1+2, 9, sometimes 8, supralabials, 4th to 6th touching the eye Scales in 19 rows, with bidentate tips, all distinctly keeled except the outer row, which is usually smooth V. 150–170, C 80–97.

Hemipenis extends to the 8th caudal plate, forked for half its length.

Olive-green above on the anterior part of the body, browner posteriorly, with or without narrow black cross-bars, sometimes interrupted on the mid-line, whitish below, uniform or powdered with grey, or almost entirely grey, or whitish anteriorly, grey posteriorly, lips white with two black oblique stripes, one below the eye, the other from behind the eye to the angle of the mouth, nape and hinder part of head white in the young, edged with black in front, and with a broad black bar or chevron behind, the outer parts of the chevron may persist as an oblique bar on each side of the neck

Total length ♂ 880, tail 255, ♀ 840, tail 185 mm.

Range Tenasserim and Burma as far north as Thandaung, Toungoo district, the whole of Siam Bourret records it from Tong-King.

Natrix nigrocincta is widely distributed in Siam I obtained specimens from three well-separated localities, and have recorded the following variations (1922)

Northern Siam and Pegu

1 preocular V. 161–170; C. 83–96. Adults with distinct cross-bars (13 exs.).

Peninsular Siam.

1 preocular V 150–157, C. 72–82. Colour as in the northern form (5 exs.)

S E Siam

2 preoculars V. 156–164, C 74–84 Cross-bars indistinct or absent (4 exs.).

I kept two individuals for some months. They were active, graceful snakes of diurnal habits. They fed upon frogs and fish, picking the latter out of the water, and bolting them with great rapidity.

223. *Natrix monticola*.

Tropidonotus monticolus Jerdon, 1853, J A S Bengal, xxii, p. 530 (Wynad, type lost) — *Tropidonotus monticola*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p. 348, and Cat. Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p. 259, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxvi, 1918, p. 562 — *Rhabdophis monticola*, Wall, ibid xxix, 1923, p. 607.

Maxillary teeth 33 to 35, the last two abruptly and strongly enlarged, nostrils lateral, 1 preocular, temporals 2+2 or 2+3, 8 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye. Body rather stout, scales in 19 rows, all distinctly keeled except the outer row, which may be smooth. V 136-144, C 78-92.

Hemipenis extending to the 9th caudal plate, forked near the tip.

Green above, with broad black cross-bars or quadrangular black spots, interrupted by two series of light dorso-lateral spots or lines, lower parts white, a white or yellow line or collar across the back of the head, a white dot on each side of the frontal, pre- and postoculars and labials below the eye white, throat and sides of neck yellow in life.

Total length. ♂ 380, tail 118, ♀ 475, tail 150 mm.

Range. The Western Ghats from Talevadi, Goa Frontier, to Travancore. A comparatively rare species.

224. *Natrix chrysargus*.

Tropidonotus chrysargus Boie, 1827, Isis, p. 534 (Java *nom nud*), Schlegel, Phys Serp n, 1837, p. 312, pl. xii, figs 6 & 7, Boulenger (in part), F B I 1890, p. 345, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p. 258, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p. 127 — *Rhabdophis chrysargus*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p. 606 (in part), Angel, Bull Mus H N. Paris, (2) 1, 1929, p. 76. *Tropidonotus juncus* Cantor, 1847, Cat Mal Rept p. 93 (Penang, London), Girard, U S Explor Exp Herp 1858, p. 145, pl. xii, fig. 1.

Maxillary teeth 27 to 35, the last two abruptly and fairly strongly enlarged, nostrils lateral, 1 preocular, temporals 2+2 or 2+3, rarely 1+2, 9 supralabials, 3rd to 5th touching the eye, usually 6 infralabials touching the anterior genials. Body slender, scales in 19 rows, all more or less strongly keeled, with bidentate tips. V 155-165, C 84-101.

Hemipenis to the 8th caudal plate, forked near the tip.

Olive-brownish, -greenish or -greyish above with a dorso-

lateral series of short white or yellow transverse bars, edged outside and connected across the vertebral line, with black, lower parts whitish, usually with a black spot at the outer margin of each ventral shield (specimens from the Malayan region may have the ventrals heavily spotted with black), lips white, the colour continued backwards and forming a chevron upon the nape, this mark always distinct in the young, supraorbital shield sometimes white

Total length ♂ 650, tail 145, ♀ 715, tail 195 mm

Range. Tenasserim and Siam as far north as lat 19°, Kamchay Mts, Cambodia, the Malayan region

As shown on pp 288 and 305, the Himalayan and Hainan records of this snake are not correct, and in consequence its range is here much restricted

I have not seen the specimens recorded by Angel from Chieng-Khoung, in Upper Laos.

225 *Natrix callichroma*.

Natrix chrysarga callichroma Bourret, 1934, Bull Instr Gen Pub. Hanoi, April, p 155 (Ba-vi, Tong-King, Paris) — *Rhabdophis chrysargus callichromus*, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 101
Natrix auchenia Smith, 1939, P Z S p. 580 (Hainan, London)

Like *chrysarga* in dentition and general scalation, differing as follows.—8 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye, and in the coloration of the head and neck V 152-159, C 79-86

Greyish-olive above, with indistinct, narrow black, transverse bars, intersected on the dorso-lateral line by short, whitish bars, lower parts whitish, lightly powdered with grey, lips white, a light patch on the head and nape immediately behind the parietals

In addition there is a nuchal gland The scales of the neck are not altered in shape or size, but on stretching the skin of that part, two parallel longitudinal areas of naked skin are exposed, the condition being as shown in the figure of *Balanophis ceylonensis*, p 310 The areas are separated from one another by three series of scales and extend over a length of 9 scales, they are present in the type but cannot be found in the paratype of *auchenia*, nor in the type of *callichroma*. Beneath the naked areas lies the gland (sacculated type)

Range Hainan (Five Finger Mountains), Tong-King (Ba-vi) Known from three specimens, all males

I have examined the type of *N chry. callichroma* in Paris and regard it as identical with my *N auchenia* The species has particular interest in that it combines the gland of the sacculated type with the external skin characters of the non-sacculated type

Genus **BALANOPHIS.**

Tropidonotus, Boulenger, 1890, F. B I p 341, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus 1, 1893, p 192

Rhabdophis, Wall, 1923, J Bombay N H S p 604

Balanophis Smith, 1938, P Z S p 583 (type *Tropidonotus ceylonensis* Günther)

Maxillary teeth 24 to 26, followed by two enlarged, curved, grooved teeth, anterior mandibular teeth feebly enlarged. Head distinct from neck, eye large, with round pupil. Body moderately elongate, scales in 19 rows, all except the outer row, strongly keeled, ventrals rounded, tail moderate. Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column. A nuchal gland of the non-sacculated type. A single species.

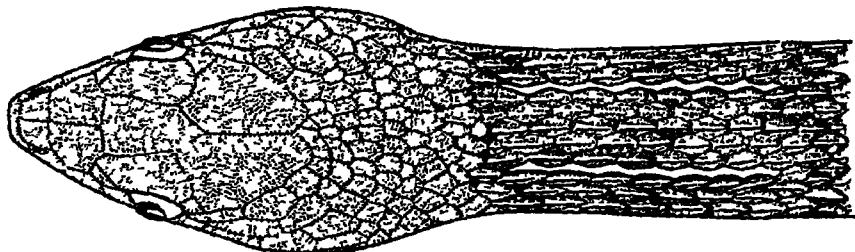
226 *Balanophis ceylonensis*.

Tropidonotus chrysargus var *ceylonensis* Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p 71 (Ceylon; London) — *Tropidonotus ceylonensis*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 268, pl xxii, fig G, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 346, and Cat Sn Brit Mus, 1, 1893, p 252 — *Rhabdophis ceylonensis*, Wall, Sn. Ceylon, 1921, p 103, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 605 — *Balanophis ceylonensis*, Smith, P Z. S 1938, p 583

Nostril between two nasals; internasals shorter than the prefrontals, frontal longer than its distance from the end



A



B

Fig. 98 — *Balanophis ceylonensis*

A Maxilla B Head and neck, shewing areas of naked skin

of the snout, 2 pre- and 3 postoculars, temporals 2+2 or 2+3, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 4 infra-labials touching the anterior genials which are shorter than the posterior V 131-141, C 40-54, A 2

The nuchal gland extends to about the level of the 15th ventral plate, the elongated areas of naked skin which overlie the gland are separated by 5 series of scales

Olive-brown above, with more or less distinct reticulated, black cross-bars enclosing a dorso-lateral series of large yellow or reddish, black-edged spots, whitish or yellowish below, the tail speckled with grey, lips whitish, a dark brown stripe from behind the eye on to the neck. Interstitial skin scarlet, the colour showing up when the snake inflates its body.

Total length ♂ 500, tail 110, ♀ 460, tail 95 mm

Range Peculiar to Ceylon. A hill species, only known from a few specimens

Nothing appears to be known about its habits

Genus PSEUDOXENODON.

Pseudoxenodon Boulenger, 1890, F. B. I. p. 340, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 270 (type *macrops*), Pope, Rept. China, 1935, p. 139, Bourret, Serp. Indochine, 1936, p. 111

Maxillary teeth 20 to 28, increasing slightly in size posteriorly, the last two abruptly and much enlarged, and separated from the others by a slight interval, as in *Natrix subminiata* (fig. 95 C). Head distinct from neck, eye large, with round pupil. Body cylindrical, scales on the anterior part of the body disposed obliquely, keeled, without apical pits, in 19 or 17 rows, ventrals rounded; tail moderate; subcaudals paired

Range China, Indo-China, the Malay Peninsula, Java.

Eight species are known, the most widely distributed one being *macrops*. Three occur in the area covered by this work.

Key to the Species

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| V 151-180; C 55-80, body without cross-bars | <i>macrops</i> , p. 311 |
| V 131-142, C 42-52, above with 15-24 conspicuous broad black cross-bars | <i>bambusicola</i> , p. 313 |
| V 135, C 53, above with 33 small oblong red bars | <i>popei</i> , p. 314 |

227 *Pseudoxenodon macrops*.

Tropidonotus macrops Blyth, 1854, J. A. S. Bengal, xxiii, p. 296 (Darjeeling; Calcutta), Stoliczka, J. A. S. Bengal, xl, 1871, p. 436 — *Pseudoxenodon macrops*, Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 340, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. 1, 1893, p. 270; Venning,

- J Bombay N H S xx, 1910-1911, pp 340 and 772. Wall, *ibid* xviii, 1908, p 321, and xix, 1909, pp 341 and 398, Smedley, Bull Raffles Mus no 5, 1931, p 51, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 151, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 484
Tropidonotus sikkimensis Anderson, 1871, J A S Bengal, xl, p 17 (Darjeeling, Calcutta)
Tropidonotus angusticeps Blyth (in part), 1854, J A S Bengal, xxiii, p 295 (Darjeeling and Calcutta), Slater, J A S Bengal, ix, 1891, p 240 — *Pseudoxenodon angusticeps*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 608, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 111, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xii, 1939, p 151
Pseudoxenodon angusticeps uniformis Bourret, 1935, Bull Instr Pub Hanoi, April, p 263 (Tam-dao and Chapa, Tong-King, Paris), and Serp Indochine, 1936, p 116.

Maxillary teeth 25 to 27, nostril large, between two nasals, suture between the internasals half or a little more than half that between the prefrontals, loreal large, a little longer than high 1 preocular, not touching the frontal, 3 postoculars, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 7th highest, temporals 2+2, genials well developed, the anterior a little shorter than the posterior Scales in 19.19 or 17 15 rows, feebly or strongly keeled V 151-180, C 55-80, A 2 In the sexually mature male the keels on the ischiadic region develop strong tubercles

Hemipenis extending to the 7th caudal plate, forked at the 4th, distal to the fork it is spinose, except for a small area at the extreme tip, which is calyculate, the spines are fine but long, proximal to the fork it is almost smooth, the sulcus lips are formed by two deep folds, and two more run parallel with them

Brownish, olivaceous or greyish above, with or without a vertebral series of yellowish, reddish-brown or orange dark-edged spots or short cross-bars, often placed obliquely, and a dorso-lateral series of black spots, a more or less distinct chevron-shaped mark on the nape, pointing forwards, present or absent yellowish below, the anterior part of the belly with large quadrangular black or dark brown spots, sometimes united to form cross-bars, posterior part of belly and tail speckled or clouded with black or dark grey

The dorsal markings are subject to considerable variation. Wall (1909), giving an account of a large number of specimens, all from the neighbourhood of Darjeeling, writes — 'The ornamentation of this species is very varied, and in some specimens extremely beautiful In a young example the head was slaty-blue, behind this the nape bore a broad intensely black arrow-head, bordered behind with a narrower band of cinnamon In some specimens the head is a rich dark green in some the arrow-head is billiard-cloth green, in others lilac and in others is completely absent In some the back is nearly uniformly olivaceous-green or brown In some the

series of dark costal spots is but obscure, in others very black or purplish. In some no trace of light cross-bars can be seen, in others they are more or less distinctly visible, in others very conspicuous, sometimes whitish, sometimes cinnamon, or the anterior whitish and the posterior cinnamon. Some specimens are chequered with green, black, amber and ochre spots. With all this variety of form, the specimens do not lend themselves to a grouping into colour varieties, for scarcely two specimens are quite alike."

Total length ♂ 1160, tail 230, ♀ 1020, tail 200 mm

Range. The Eastern Himalayas as far west as Nepal; Assam, the whole of Burma as far north as lat 28° and south to Tenasserim (Taok plateau), Siam (Pa Meang in the extreme north), Annam (Langbian plateau), Malay Peninsula (Cameron Highlands)

Common in the neighbourhood of Darjeeling up to 5,000 and 6,000 feet. Rare in Indo-China south of lat 20°. When excited it can flatten the neck in a marked degree.

Pseudoxenodon macrops sinensis (type locality Yunnan-Fu) differs from the typical form in having fewer ventrals (138-162), fewer subcaudals (57-68), and in having usually only 7 supralabials.

Wall's contention that the proper name of this snake is *angusticeps* because that name has page preference over *macrops* is not a correct interpretation of the Rules of Nomenclature. If names are of the same date, that selected by the first reviser shall stand (Art 28), the first reviser in this case was undoubtedly Sclater (1891). See also H. W. Parker, P. Z. S. 1935, p. 524.

More material is needed before we can satisfactorily determine the status of the various members of this difficult genus. Pope, whose revision of it (1935) is the most complete yet attempted, includes six species. The differences between them are based largely upon coloration and this, as shown in *macrops*, can be most variable. The single specimen which I saw in Paris, collected by Bourret in Tong-King, and identified by him as *P. dorsalis*, is certainly not that species. I provisionally refer it to *bambusicola* Vogt, it has a scale formula of 19 17 15 V 143, C 51.

228 *Pseudoxenodon bambusicola*.

Pseudoxenodon bambusicola Vogt, 1922, Arch. Natur. Berlin, lxxxviii, A, 10, p. 138 (Mountains of N. Kwangtung), Pope, Rept. China, 1935, p. 140, fig.

Pseudoxenodon melh Vogt, l. c. s. p. 139 (Lungtow, N. Kwantung), Smith, J. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam, vi, 1923, p. 202.

I obtained a single specimen of this snake in Hainan, elsewhere it is known from China.

229 *Pseudoxenodon popei*.

Pseudoxenodon popei Gressitt, 1936, Proc Biol Soc Washington, xl, p 119 (Loi Mother Mountain, Hainan), and Peking Nat Hist Bull xv, 1941, p 186, fig head

Known only from the type

Genus **MACROPISTHODON**.

Macropisthodon Boulenger, 1893, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, p 265 (type *flaviceps*). and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 128, De Rooij, Rept Indo-Austral Arch 11, 1917, p 91, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 161

Pseudagkistrodon Van Denburgh, 1909, Proc Cal Acad Sci 11, p 51 (type *carinatus*)

Tropidonotus (in part), Boulenger, 1890, F B. I p 341

Maxillary teeth 11 to 18 followed by two very large backward-pointing fangs, separated from the others by a short interval. Head distinct from neck; eye moderate, pupil round. Body rather stout, scales strongly keeled, in 19 to 27 rows, with apical pits, ventrals rounded, tail rather short, subcaudals paired. Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column.

Range The Malayan Region, India, Yunnan, China

The genus contains four species, two in the Malayan region, one in the Chinese and one in India. As already stated (p 282) it is closely allied to the *Rhabdophis* group of *Natrix*, from which it may have been derived. In *Macropisthodon* it would appear almost as if the development of the posterior fangs had passed the stage when they were really serviceable to their owner. They extend backwards almost in a straight line with the long axis of the maxillary bone, and it is only by extreme elevation of that bone that they can be brought into service. All the members of the genus have the habit of flattening the neck and fore-part of the body and of adopting an erect cobra-like attitude.

230 *Macropisthodon plumbicolor*.

GREEN KEELBACK

Tropidonotus plumbicolor Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 54 (type loc. Malwa (Saugar), C I drawing in Bodleian Lib, Oxford); Boulenger, F B. I 1890, p 351—*Macropisthodon plumbicolor*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 267, Fletcher, Spol. Zeyl v, 1908, p 99, Wall, J Bombay N H S xvi, 1905, p 390, and xvii, 1906, p 1, col pl, and xxvi, 1919, p 563, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 128, Fischer, J Bombay N. H S xvii, 1906, p 527, Evans, ibid xx, 1911, p 1164, Prater, ibid. xxx, 1924, p 168, Smith, P Z S 1936, p 581; Fraser, ibid. xxxix, 1937, p 471

Trigonocephalus ellioti Jerdon, 1853, J Asiatic Soc Bengal, xxii, p 523 (type loc Nilgiri Hills)

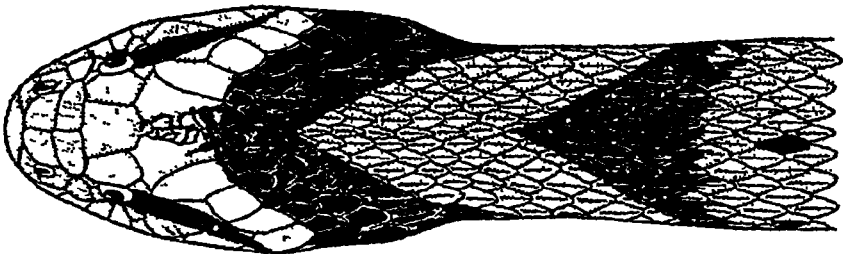
Xenodon viridis Dum & Bib 1854, Erp Gen vii, p 763 (Indes Orientales, Paris)

Amphiesma brachyurum Jan, 1865, Arch. Zool Anat Phys iii, p 37, and Icon Gen Ophid 1868, Liv. 29, pl iii, fig 2 (Sultanpur)

Maxillary teeth 11 or 12+2 Head rather broad and short, nostril between two nasals. internasal as long, or nearly as long, as the prefrontals, loreal often united with the lower preocular, 2 pre- and 3 or 4 postoculars, temporals 2+3, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, anterior genials shorter than the posterior Scales strongly keeled, except the outermost row, in 23 or 25 25 or 27 17 or 19 rows, V. 144-162, C ♂ 39-48, ♀ 34-43 (for specimens from India) In 21 or 23 21 or 23 17 rows V 154-153, C ♂ 40-45, ♀ 37-47 (for specimens from Ceylon) A usually divided The scales



A



B

Fig 99 — *Macropisthodon plumbicolor*

A. Maxilla (B M 1930 5 8 266) B. Dorsal view of head and neck.

of the neck are variable in character, they may or may not indicate the presence of the gland below. In some individuals they are unaltered, in others a few scales are enlarged and paired, or there may be a vertebral series of very small scales.

Hemipenis extending to the 15th caudal plate, forked opposite the 9th. It is strongly plicate and spinose throughout, the spines gradually diminishing in size as they approach the tip. The vertebral gland is of the sacculated type and extends the whole length of the body. A full description of it is given in P. Z S 1938, l c s

Grass-green above in life, becoming dull olive-brown (plumbicolor) in spirits. Juveniles have a large A-shaped

mark on the neck, its apex forwards, reaching to the frontal shield, and a second much smaller one behind, the intervening space being bright yellow or orange, a black stripe from the eye to the angle of the mouth, and more or less regular transverse black spots or cross-bars on the back and tail, belly whitish, yellow or plumbeous, rarely with darkish spots. With age the black markings entirely disappear.

Total length ♂ 485, tail 70 (750, Wall), ♀ 690, tail 85 (940, Wall) mm

Range The whole of India except the Ganges Valley and the extreme north-west, Ceylon

Rare in the plains, common in many hill districts, ascending to 7,000 feet, found usually among low vegetation or in grass, it has been known to enter houses. In disposition, it is singularly gentle and inoffensive, when alarmed, it erects the fore-body and flattens the neck like a cobra. Some specimens are very timid and flatten the whole body on the ground (Wall). Its chief food is toads.

Genus **PARARHABDOPHIS.**

Pararhabdophis Bourret, 1934, Bull. Gen. Instr. Pub. Hanoi, March, p. 131, and Serp. Indochine, 1936, p. 120 (type *chapaensis*)

Maxillary teeth 32, followed without any interval by three much larger ones. Head distinct from neck, eye moderate, with vertically elliptic pupil, nostrils lateral, between two nasals. Body cylindrical, scales in 17 rows throughout, without apical pits, subcaudals paired. Hypapophyses strongly developed in the posterior dorsal vertebræ.

The type-specimen, originally preserved in formalin, is now in a very bad state of preservation. The pupils, however, are undoubtedly vertical, but for this character I should have placed it in the genus *Natrix*.

231 *Pararhabdophis chapaensis*.

Pararhabdophis chapaensis Bourret, l. c. s. (Chapa, Tong-King, Paris)

Internasals nearly as long as the prefrontals, loreal longer than high, 2 pre- and 2 postoculars, temporals 1+1, 9 supralabials, 4th, 5th and 6th touching the eye, genials well developed, the anterior a little shorter than the posterior. Scales feebly keeled. V 177, C 73, tail incomplete.

Hemipenis extending to the 6th caudal plate, not forked, spinose and calyculate throughout.

Dark brown above, the scales of row 5 on each side with light centres, forming two light dorso-lateral stripes;

brownish below, the outer margins of the ventrals lighter, lips whitish, the labials edged with brown

Total length 790, tail 160 mm

Known only from the type-specimen

Genus **XENOCHROPHIS**.

Xenochrophis Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 273 (type *cerasogaster*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 353, fig, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus 1, 1893, p 191

Maxillary teeth rather long, 20 to 25, subequal Head fairly distinct from neck with angular canthus rostralis, eye moderate, with round pupil, nostril in a single nasal, directed upwards and outwards Body cylindrical, scales in 19 rows, strongly keeled, without apical pits, ventrals rounded. tail moderate, subcaudals paired Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column

A single species

Range As in the species

232 *Xenochrophis cerasogaster*.

Psammophis cerasogaster Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 52 (near Calcutta, col sketch in Bodleian Lib) — *Xenochrophis cerasogaster*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 274, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 353, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 191, Wall, J Bombay, N H S xvm, 1907, p 104, and xxix, 1923, p 600

Amphiesma schistaceum Jan, 1865, Arch Zool Anat Phys iii, p 236 (Indes Orientales)

Head narrow, elongate, rostral large, plate-like, about as broad as high, internasals narrowed anteriorly, nearly as long as the prefrontals, frontal long and narrow, constricted in the middle, where it is about as broad as the supraoculars, much longer than its distance from the end of the snout loreal longer than high, 1 pre- and 2 or 3 postoculars temporals 2+2 or 2+3, 9 supralabials, 4th touching the eye, 5th excluded by a subocular, genials elongate, the posterior pair the longest Scales in 19 19 17 rows, the tips more or less distinctly bidentate V 140-154, C 63-76, A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, forked near the tip, it is calyculate and spinose throughout, the cups being short and uniform in size, the spines project from the bases of the cups

Olive-brown to green above, with or without more or less distinct darker spots, lower parts reddish, dappled with brown or purplish black, with small whitish spots, particularly on the fore-part of the body, a bright yellow line, white in the young, along the outer margins of the ventrals, bordered

above with chocolate, and below, in life, with red, lips yellow, edged with chocolate above, these two colours continuous with those upon the flanks

Total length ♂ 510, tail 120 ♀ 620, tail 140 mm

Range U P. (Fyzabad), Bengal, Assam (Khasi Hills, Goalpara)

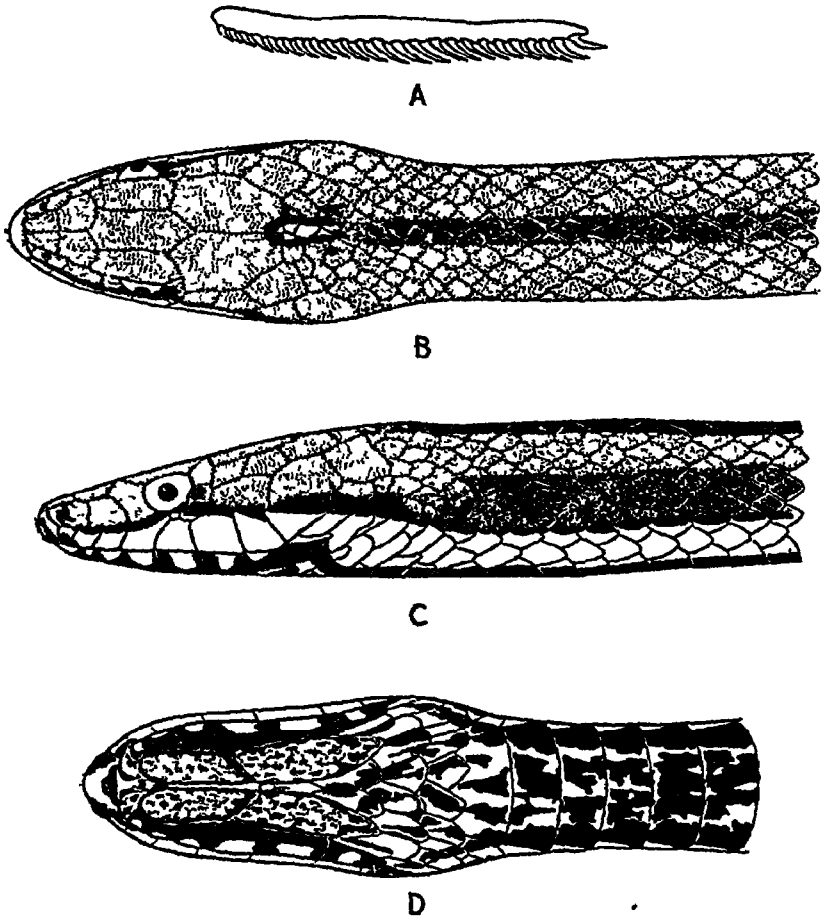


Fig 100 — *Xenochrophis cerasogaster* A Maxilla B, C, D Dorsal, lateral, and ventral views of head (B M 1907 2 14 2-10.)

This strikingly handsome snake is almost entirely aquatic in its habits. Of its food, Wall (1907) writes "I found many with a material *in gastro* too digested to recognise, until I found one with a freshly ingested shrimp, when I realised from the colour, texture and fishy odour the true nature of the contents of other stomachs"

Genus ATRETIIUM.

- Tropidophis* (non Coct & Bib 1843), Gray, 1849, Cat Spec Sn Brit Mus p 69 (type *schistosus*)
Atretium Cope, 1861, Pr Acad Nat Sci Philad p 299 (type *schistosum*), Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 272
Helcops, Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 352, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 272 (in part), Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 159

Maxillary teeth 19 to 24, posterior largest, head scarcely distinct from neck, eye rather large with round pupil, nostril valvular, directed more or less upwards, in a divided or semi-divided nasal, a single internasal. Body cylindrical, scales keeled, without apical pits, in 19 rows, ventrals rounded; tail moderate, subcaudals paired. Hypapophyses* developed throughout the vertebral column.

Range. Ceylon; India, Yunnan. Two species.

Key to the Species

A pair of prefrontals	.. .	<i>schistosum</i> , p 319
Three or four prefrontals	. . . . .	[<i>yunnanensis</i>], p 320

233 *Atretium schistosum*.

OLIVACEOUS KEELBACK.

- Russell, 1801. Ind Serp ii, p 5, pl iv (no locality given)
Coluber schistosus Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vii, p 132 (based on Russell's plate) — *Atretium schistosum*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 273 — *Helcops schistosus*, Boulenger, F. B I 1890, p 352, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 274, Wall, J Bombay N H S xvi, 1905, p 391, and xviii, 1907, p 109, and xxi, 1912, p 1009, col pl, map, and xxxix, 1923, p 608, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 135
Tropidonotus moestus Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 54 (Bengal sketch in Bodleian Library)
Tropidonotus surgens Cantor, *ibid* p 54 (Bengal sketch in Bodleian Library)

Rostral broader than high, visible from above; internasal longer than the suture between the prefrontals; frontal twice as long as broad, much longer than its distance from the end of the snout, not twice as broad as the supraocular, loreal about as long as high, 1 pre- and 2 or 3 postoculars, temporals 2+2, 8 or 9 supralabials, 3rd and 4th, or 4th and 5th, touching the eye, anterior genials shorter than the posterior. Scales in 19 19 17 rows, more or less distinctly

* Absent in the American *Helcops carinicauda*, type of the genus *Helcops*, and in most other species of the genus, but present in *H. angulatus* and *H. polylepis*. A reconsideration of the whole genus is indicated, or perhaps the abandonment of the character for that genus as in *Chrysopelea*. Pending revision, the genus *Atretium* is here restricted to Asia. See also Pope, l c s and Bogert, Bull Amer Mus Nat Hist lxxvii, 1940, p. 36

keeled, the keels strongest on the posterior part of the body and tail V 129-160 C 53-85, A 2

Hemipenis forked at the junction of the distal $\frac{1}{3}$ and proximal $\frac{2}{3}$, spinose and calyculate throughout, the calyces are thick-walled and present a honeycomb appearance, the spines are small and on the floor of the calyces

Olive-brown or greenish above, uniform or with two series of small black spots along the back, a more or less distinct dark lateral streak sometimes present, upper lip, outer row of scales, and lower surfaces yellow According to Wall, specimens from Southern India have a reddish line down the body on scale rows 5 and 6

Total length ♂ 550, tail 160, ♀ 800, tail 185 mm

Range Ceylon, India (Anaimalais, Wynaad, Mysore, U P Orissa) Common in Ceylon and at Bangalore (Wall)

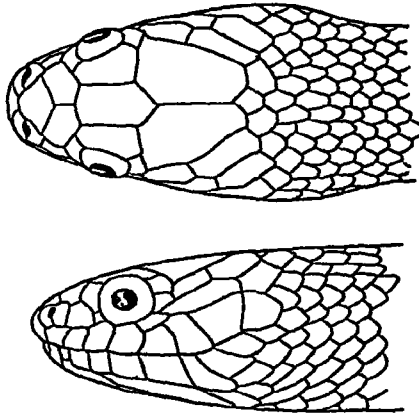


Fig 101 — *Atrretium schistosum*

A. schistosum inhabits the plains and plateaus up to 3,000 feet altitude It is quiet and inoffensive in disposition and diurnal in its habits Although liking a moist environment, it is seldom found actually in the water, and at times ascends low bushes, it feeds upon frogs and fish When alarmed, the fore part of the body is raised and the neck flattened, sometimes the whole of the body Wall records a couple taken *in copula* at Bangalore on August 27th, from 12 to 30 eggs are laid at a time.

234 [*Atrretium yunnanensis*.]

Atrretium schistosum var *yunnanensis* Anderson, 1879, Anat. Zool Res W Yunnan, p 822 (Muangla & Hotha, W Yunnan; Calcutta)

Helicops yunnanensis, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 159, fig head.

Range. Western Yunnan

Genus **TRACHISCHIMUM.**

Trachischium Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p 30 (type *rugosum*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 284, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 297, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 608 — *Trachyschium*, Berg, 1901, Comm. Mus. Nac B Aires, 1, (8) p 289

Eminophis Werner, 1924, Sitz Ber. Acad Wiss Wien, (1) xxxiii, p. 55 (type *lineolata*)

Maxillary teeth 18 to 20, subequal Head not distinct from neck; eye moderate, with rounded or vertically sub-elliptic pupil, nostril between two nasals, directed forwards

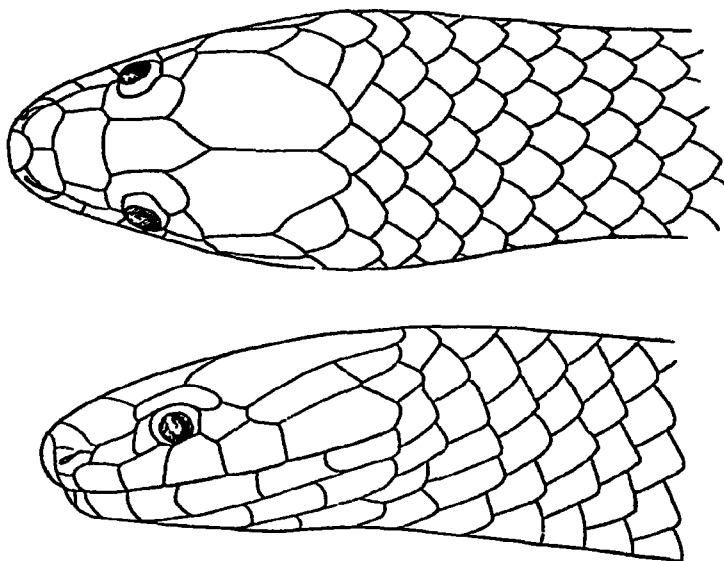


Fig 102 — *Trachischium fuscum* (B M. 74 4 29 1179)

and outwards, body cylindrical, scales smooth, keeled in the sacral region, in 13 or 15 rows throughout, without apical pits, ventrals rounded, tail short, subcaudals paired

Common characters, unless otherwise stated — Rostral as broad as high, or a little broader than high, internasals much shorter than the prefrontals, frontal twice or nearly twice as broad as the supraoculars, much shorter than the parietals, loreal twice as long as high, 1 preocular, 1 long anterior temporal, 6 supralabials, 1st smallest, 6th largest, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 4 infralabials in contact with the anterior genials, anal undivided, hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column

Hemipenis short, undivided, and spinous throughout, the spines being of almost uniform size and arranged in regular, longitudinal series

Range The Himalayas, Assam

Diminutive snakes of gentle disposition, living generally under stones or fallen trees and feeding upon worms, they lay from 3 to 6 eggs at a time

Key to the Species.

I Scales in 15 rows			
Two prefrontals	.	...	<i>monticola</i> , p. 322
II Scales in 13 rows			
Prefrontal single, rarely divided,	1	postocular;	
V 150-165, belly dark brown			<i>fuscum</i> , p. 322
Prefrontal single, rarely divided,	1	postocular,	
V 134-154, belly yellow			<i>guentheri</i> , p. 323
Two prefrontals,	2	postoculars,	6 supralabials
Two prefrontals,	1	postocular,	5 supralabials
			<i>tenuiceps</i> , p. 323
			<i>læve</i> , p. 324

235 *Trachischium monticola*.

Calamaria monticola Cantor, 1839, P Z S p. 50 (Naga Hills, London, sketch in Bodleian Library) — *Trachischium monticola* Boulenger, F B I 1890, p. 286, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p. 299, and *ibid* iii, 1896, p. 612, Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1907, p. 322, and xix, 1909, pp. 343, 618, and xxix, 1923, p. 609, Annandale, Rec Ind Mus 1912, p. 45

Ablabes albiventer Günther, 1875, P Z S p. 231 (Darjeeling, London)

Cyclophis rubiventer Jerdon, 1870, Pr A S Bengal, p. 80 (Khasi Hills, Assam type lost)

Two prefrontals, two postoculars, rarely united, temporals 1+1, anterior genials a little longer than the posterior Scales in 15 rows, those of the sacral region quite smooth V 113-125, C 26-40

Light or dark brown above, with blackish longitudinal lines, and two more or less distinct reddish or light dorso-lateral stripes, yellowish below, a yellow spot on either side of the neck present or absent

Total length 225, tail 25 mm

Range Assam (Hills north and south of the Bramaputra), Bengal (Barakar) Common in the hills of Assam

236 *Trachischium fuscum*.

Calamaria fusca Blyth, 1854, J A S Bengal, xxiii, p. 288 (Darjeeling type lost) — *Trachischium fuscum*, Günther, P Z S 1860 p. 161, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p. 285, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p. 297, Annandale, J A S Bengal, 1904, p. 208, Wall, J Bombay N H S xix, 1909, p. 342, and xxix, 1923, p. 608, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xii, 1939, p. 153

Calamaria obsкуро-strata Blyth, 1854, J A S Bengal, xxiii, p. 288 ("Rangoon" type lost)

Trachischium rugosum Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p. 30 (Sikkim, London)

Ablabes qilqitcus Annandale, 1905, J & Pr A S Bengal, 1, p. 210 (Gilgit Kashmir Calcutta). Wall, Rec Ind Mus, 1919, p. 147

Emanophus lineolata Werner, 1924, Sitz Ber Akad. Wiss Wien, Abt 1, cxxxiii, 1924, p 55 (type loc unknown; Vienna), Smith, Ann Mag Nat Hist, (10) 1, 1928, p 496 (= *fuscum*)

A single prefrontal, rarely divided, 1 postocular; temporals 1+2, anterior genials twice, or nearly twice, as long as the posterior. Scales in 13 rows, those on the sides of the posterior part of the body and base of the tail distinctly keeled in the male, feebly keeled or smooth in the female. V. 150-165, C 28-42

Dark brown or blackish above and below, more or less iridescent, and with or without indistinct light longitudinal streaks above, the young are light brown above with dark longitudinal lines

Total length. ♂ 325, tail 53, ♀ 480, tail 65 mm. (700 mm. Wall)

Range The Himalayas from Gilgit, Loharganj and Garwhal districts in the west to Darjeeling district and Assam in the east.

Very common, according to Wall, in the neighbourhood of Darjeeling at between 5,000 and 7,000 feet.

237 *Trachischium guentheri*.

Trachischium guentheri Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 285 (Darjeeling; London), and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 298, pl xix, fig 1, Wall, J Bombay N H S xiv, 1909, p 343, and xxix, 1923, p 609, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiii, 1939, p 154.

Like *fuscum* in head scalation, scales in 13 rows, strongly keeled in the male on either side of the vent. V. 132-154; C 30-43

Dark brown or reddish brown above, uniform or with indistinct lighter and darker longitudinal streaks, yellowish below (coral red in life), uniform or scantily mottled with brown. Young with an indistinct yellowish collar.

Total length ♂ 308, tail 46, ♀ 420, tail 58 mm.

Range. Sikkim, Bengal (Darjeeling district).

Common in the neighbourhood of Darjeeling at between 3,000 and 7,000 feet

238 *Trachischium tenuiceps*.

Calamaria tenuiceps Blyth, 1854, J A S Bengal, xxiii, p 288 (Darjeeling, Calcutta)—*Trachischium tenuiceps*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 286, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 299, Wall, J Bombay N H S xiv, 1909, p 343, and xxix, 1923, p 609, Shaw & others, J Darjeeling N H S xiii, 1939, p. 154

Two prefrontals, two postoculars, temporals 1+1 or 1+2, anterior genials not twice as long as the posterior; scales in 13 rows, keeled in the male on the sides of the vent, V 125-140, C 28-42.

The young are light brown above, the scales with dark edges forming longitudinal lines. Adults are dark brown to blackish above, yellow below (bright yellow or orange in life), tail mottled below with brown and with a brown mesial line.

Total length 370, tail 50 mm (♀)

Range Nepal; Sikkim, Bengal (Darjeeling district, Hills near Barakar)

239 *Trachischium læve*.

Trachischium læve Peracca, 1904, Rev Suisse Zool Geneva, xii, p 665 ("Indes Orientales" Geneva)

Trachischium quinquelabialis Wall, 1911, J Bombay N H S xxi, p 201 (Muktesar, 7500 feet, W. Himalayas, London, co-type from Naini Tal dist, Calcutta), and xxix, 1923, p 609

Two prefrontals, 1 postocular, temporals 1+2, 5 supra-labials, the last very long, anterior genials not twice as long as the posterior, scales in 13 rows, strongly keeled in the male on either side of the vent V 141-147, C 29-39

Olive above, yellowish below, posterior half of belly and tail uniform or mottled with grey

Total length ♂ 305, tail 50, ♀ 450, tail 60 mm

Range. Western Himalayas (Muktesar and near Naini Tal).

Genus *PLAGIOPHOLIS*.

Plagiopholis Boulenger, 1893, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, p 301 (type *blakeayi*), Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 610

Trirhinopholis Boulenger, 1893, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, p 419 (type *nuchalis*), Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 612, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 178

Maxillary teeth 16 to 20, small, equal; head not distinct from neck, nostril between two nasals, or between them and the first labial, eye moderate, with vertically subelliptic pupil, loreal present or absent. body short, stoutish, cylindrical scales smooth, more or less oblique, without pits, in 15 rows throughout, ventrals rounded, tail short, sub-caudals single or paired. Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column. In all the species the mental is in contact with the anterior genials

Range Burma, Tong-King, S China

Four species are known, three are included in this volume, the fourth, *P. styani*, inhabiting China

In having distinctly oblique dorsal scales and no loreal, *deleacouri* and *styani* connect *Plagiopholis* with *Trirhinopholis*, and I have no hesitation in uniting the two genera. The character of the nostril is variable. The peculiar hemipenis of *blakeayi* is foreshadowed in that of *nuchalis*

The little that is known of these snakes shows that they are oviparous and feed chiefly upon worms

Key to the Species.

I No loreal

Scales scarcely oblique, 5 supralabials, 3rd touching the eye, T 1+1 *blakewayi*, p 325

Scales distinctly oblique, 6 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, T 1+2 *delacouri*, p 326

II A loreal

Scales distinctly oblique, 6 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, T. 1+2 *nuchalis*, p. 326.

240 *Plagiopholis blakewayi*.

Plagiopholis blakewayi Boulenger, 1893, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, p 301, pl 19 (Toungyi, Shan States, London), Wall, J. Bombay, N H S xxx, 1923, pp 467, 610, and xxx, 1925, p 810

Trirhinopholis nuchalis, Wall, 1921, J Bombay N H S xxviii, p 43

Rostral broader than high, well visible from above, internasals broader than long, shorter than the prefrontals, frontal much longer than its distance from the end of the

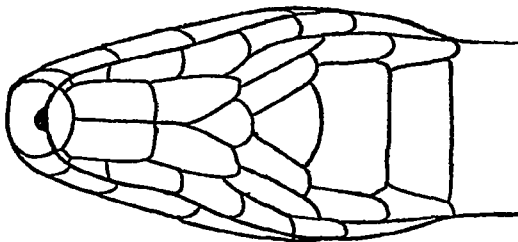
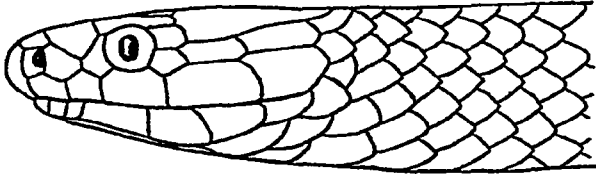


Fig 103 —*Plagiopholis blakewayi* (B M 1925 5 25 11)

snout, as long, or nearly as long, as the prefrontals, no loreal (Wall records it in one specimen), its position taken by the outer end of the prefrontal, which is wedged in between the posterior nasal and the preocular, 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, temporals 1+1 or the 2 united in one long shield, 5 supralabials, 1st and 2nd smallest, 3rd touching the eye, 4th usually the largest, 3 infralabials touching the anterior genials, which are a little longer

than the posterior Scales scarcely oblique, those of the sacral region feebly keeled in the male V. 124-132, C. ♂ 23-31, ♀ 21, paired or some of them single, A 1

The hemipenis is not forked, but the sulcus bifurcates near the base of the organ, distal to the fork the organ is spinose, except at the tip, where it is calyculate

Dark brownish or reddish above, some of the scales edged with black, and with two dorso-lateral, more or less distinct, series of small black spots, greyish or pinkish on the sides, yellowish (or pink in life) below, uniform or speckled with brown, or with the ventrals edged with brown, a black chevron on the neck present or absent, lips yellowish, the scales edged with black.

Total length 380, tail 37 mm (♀)

Range Burma (Kachin Hills, Southern Shan States).

241 *Plagiopholis delacouri*.

Plagiopholis delacouri Angel, 1929, Bull Mus Hist Nat Paris, (2) 1, p 77 (Chieng-kuang, Upper Laos, Paris), Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 136

Trirrhinopholis nuchalis, Smith, Ann Mag Nat Hist (10) vi, 1930, p 681

Trirrhinopholis styani (non Boulenger), Bourret, 1936, Serp Indochine, p 145, and Bull Gen Instruct. Pub Hanoi, Feb 1939, p 20.

Differs from *blakewayi* as follows — Temporals 1+2, 6 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 5th and 6th largest Scales distinctly oblique. V 108-129, C 20-28, paired

Yellowish or greyish-brown above, a series of round, black, dorso-lateral spots connected to each other by light transverse bars or chevrons, a large black chevron pointing forwards on the nape, edged in front and behind with lighter, lower parts yellowish, heavily spotted with dark brown, lips with black vertical bars

Total length 395, tail 45 mm (♀)

Range Upper Laos (Chieng-kuang), Tong-King (Chapa and Fan-Si-Pan Mts).

A rare species

242 *Plagiopholis nuchalis*.

Trirrhinopholis nuchalis Boulenger, 1893, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, p 419, pl xxxviii, fig 1 (Toungyi, S Shan States, London), and Ann Mus Civ Genova, (2) xiii, 1893, p 323, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, 1, 1915, p 155, and J Bombay N H S xxiii, 1915, p 785, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxxix, 1923 pp 467, 612, and xxx, 1925, p 811, and xxxi, 1926, p 561.

Taylor, Pr Acad Nat Sci Philad lxxxvi, 1934, p 302 —
Plagiopholis nuchalis, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 484
Oligodon evansi Wall, 1913, J Bombay N H S xxi, p 514, fig
 (Toungyi, S Shan States, Bombay), and *ibid* xxvii, 1920,
 p 175 (= *T. nuchalis*)

Differs from *blakewayi* as follows — A squarish loreal, temporals 1+2, 6 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 5th largest. Scales distinctly oblique, those of the sacral region feebly keeled in the male. V 122-142, C 23-30, paired or some of the anterior shields entire, A. 1.

The hemipenis is forked for about half its length, but the bifurcation of the sulcus commences considerably further back; it is spinose throughout, except near the bifurcation of the sulcus, where there are longitudinal folds, at the extreme tip of the organ the spines are very small, they gradually increase in size as they approach the proximal area.

Blackish brown or reddish above, many of the scales edged with black, a dorso-lateral series of rounded black spots connected with one another by light brown cross-bars, or a dorsal series of obliquely placed, light brown, black-edged cross-bars or elongated spots, sometimes small white or yellowish spots forming a network, a broad black chevron on the neck, pointing forwards, with or without a pale edging, belly yellowish, more or less thickly speckled with black, and usually with large squarish black spots on either side, rarely the black spots are absent.

Total length 450, tail 55 mm (♂).

Range Burma (Mahtum and Dinghputyang, north of the Triangle Katha district, Kachin Hills, Mogok, Shan States, Toungoo district, Karen Hills), Siam north of lat 13° (Chiengmai, Doi Ang-ka, Khun Tan, Sai Yoke district on the Burma-Siam border, north-west of Rathburi).

Wall records it from Burma at between 3,000 and 4,000 feet altitude, in Siam my specimens were obtained at 2,000 feet.

Genus RHABDOPS.

Grotea (not of Cresson, 1846) Theobald, 1868, Cat Rept As Soc Mus p 45 (type *bicolor*)

Rhabdops Boulenger, 1893, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, p 300 (type *olivaceus*), Wall, J Bombay N H S xxi, 1923, p 610

Pseudocyclophis Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 299 (in part)

Maxilla rather short, with 10 to 12 small, subequal teeth. Head not distinct from neck, eye moderate or small, with rounded or vertically subelliptic pupil, nostril crescentic, in the nasal, or connected by suture with the first labial. Body cylindrical, elongate, scales smooth, without apical pits, in 17 rows throughout, ventrals rounded; tail moderate.

subcaudals paired Hypapophyses present throughout the vertebral column

Range Southern India , Burma , Yunnan Two species

Key to the Species

Two internasals , two prefrontals
One internasal , one prefrontal

olivaceus, p 328
bicolor, p 328

243 *Rhabdops olivaceus*.

Ablabes olivaceus Beddome, 1863, Madras Quart J Med Sci vi, p 2 (Manantoddy, Malabar District, London)—*Pseudocyclophis olivaceus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 300—*Rhabdops olivaceus*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 300, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxvi, 1919, p 564, and xxix, 1923, p. 610

Head depressed , rostral large, much broader than high, well visible from above , suture between the internasals shorter than that between the prefrontals , frontal large, nearly as broad as long, 3 to 4 times as broad as the supraoculars, longer than its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals ; loreal longer than high ; 2 pre- and 2 postoculars , temporals 1+1, long, narrow , 5 supralabials, 3rd touching the eye, 5th very long , posterior genials shorter than the anterior, usually separated from one another by scales V 206-215 , C 62-74 , A 2

Hemipenis undivided, spinose throughout , distally the spines are minute, becoming gradually larger, and at the base of the organ are arranged in longitudinal series . parallel to the sulcus are two prominent folds

Olivaceous or yellowish-brown above and below, with 4 longitudinal series of small black spots, 2 dorso-lateral and 2 lateral ; ventrals indistinctly edged with dark brown

Total length 780, tail 120 mm. (♀)

Range. Western Ghats (Wynaad).

244. *Rhabdops bicolor*.

Calamaria bicolor Blyth, 1854, J A S Bengal, xxiii, p 289 (Assam)—*Ablabes bicolor*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 226, Anderson, Zool Res W Yunnan, 1879, p 809—*Grotea bicolor*, Theobald, Cat Rept Asiat Soc Mus 1868, p 45—*Pseudocyclophis bicolor*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 300—*Rhabdops bicolor*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 301, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxi, 1912, p 686, and xxix, 1923, p 610, and xxx, 1925, p 810, and xxxi, 1926, p 561, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 176

Snout broadly rounded , nostrils directed slightly upwards , rostral large, much broader than high, well visible from above , internasals united into a single shield, scarcely shorter than the prefrontals, which are likewise united ; frontal sub-

triangular in shape, as broad as, or broader than, long, four times as broad as the supraoculars, usually shorter than its distance from the end of the snout, much shorter than the parietals, loreal squarish or a little longer than high, 1 or 2 pre- and 2 or 3 postoculars, temporals 1+1, long and narrow, 5 supralabials, 3rd touching the eye or separated from it by the lower pre- and postoculars, 5th very long, posterior genials as long as the anterior, separated from one another by scales V. 187-214, C. 63-77, A 2.

Hemipenis as in *olivaceus* but without the longitudinal folds

Dark brown or black above, yellowish-white below, the two colours strongly contrasted, but the line of demarcation, which

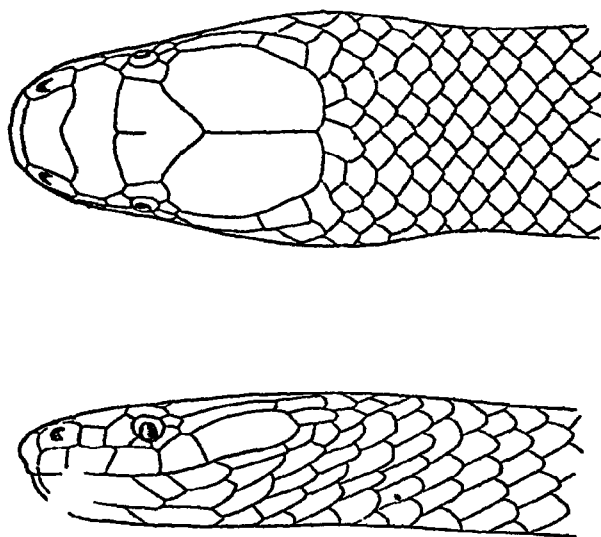


Fig 104 —*Rhabdops bicolor*

is upon scale rows 2 or 3, often very uneven in outline; tail uniform below, or spotted with black. Immature specimens may have the dorsal scales edged with black, forming longitudinal lines, in specimen B M 1935 10 12 10 from the Mishmi Hills, the dark colour of the back descends on to the flanks in a series of V-shaped marks

Total length: ♂ 600, tail 125, ♀ 675, tail 145 mm

Variation:—There is considerable irregularity in the scalation of the head, the internasals may be partly united with the prefrontals or the latter with the frontal; one example has an azygous shield between the prefrontals.

Range. Assam (Khasi and Mishmi Hills), Burma (Kachin Hills), Western Yunnan

Found in the hills, it feeds on worms and slugs.

Genus **OPISTHOTROPIS**.

Opisthotropis Günther, 1872, Ann Mag Nat Hist (4) ix, p 16 (type *ater*), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus. 1, 1893, p 283, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 164, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p. 125

Calamohydus Boulenger, 1888, Ann Mag Nat Hist (6) ii, p 44 (type *andersoni*)

Helicopsoides Mocquard, 1890, Le Naturaliste, p 154 (type *typicus*)

Trimerodytes Cope, 1895, Pr Acad Nat Sc Phila, p 426 (type *balteatus*)

Tapinophis Boulenger, 1899, P Z S p 164 (type *latouchii*)

Laparophis Peracca, 1904, Rev Suisse Zool xii, p 663 (type *bedoti*)

Cantonophis Werner, 1909, Jahrb Nat Würtemb lxx, p 57 (type *prefrontalis*)

Paralapinophis Angel, 1929, Bull Mus Hist Nat Paris, (2) 1, p 77 (type *premaxillaris*), Bourret, Serp. Indochine, 1936, p 132

Parahelecois Bourret, 1934, Bull Instr Pub Gen. Hanoi, May, p 170 (type *annamensis*)

Maxillary teeth small, 20 to 40 in number, subequal, or the last two slightly enlarged Head not or scarcely distinct

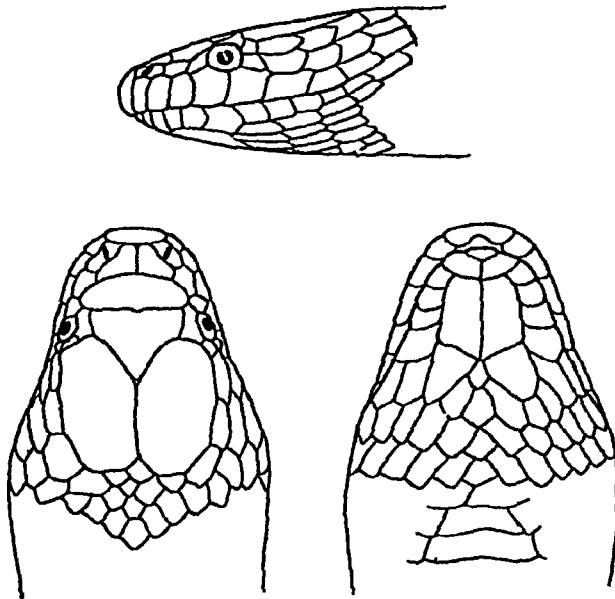


Fig 105 — *Opisthotropis spenceri* (After Smith)

from neck ; eye moderate or small, with rounded or vertically subelliptic pupil, nostril in the nasal, directed upwards and outwards, prefrontal very broad, usually single. Body cylindrical, scales smooth or keeled, without apical pits, in from 15-19 rows, ventrals rounded, tail moderate, sub-

caudals paired. Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column

Common characters unless otherwise stated —Head depressed, snout broadly rounded; rostral broader than high, just visible from above, prefrontal at least twice as broad as long, forming a long suture with the frontal, which is two to three times as broad as the supraoculars, anal divided.

Range Siam and French Indo-China north of lat. 18° Southern China, Hainan; Borneo, Sumatra

Eleven species are known.

Key to the Species

- I Scales in 19 rows
 V 196-205, body banded *balteatus*, p 331
 V 149, body not banded *premaxillaris*, p 332
- II Scales in 17 rows
 10 or 11 supralabials *lateralis*, p 332.
 8 supralabials, internasals twice as long as broad, not touching the loreal *andersoni*, p 333
 8 supralabials, internasals broader than long, in contact with the loreal *spenceri*, p 333
- III Scales in 15 rows
 Scales smooth, 1 preocular *jacobi*, p 333
 Scales keeled, 2 preoculars *annamensis*, p 334

245 *Opisthotropis balteatus*.

Trimerodytes balteatus Cope, 1895, Proc Acad. Nat Sci Philad xlv, p 426, pl 10 (Haman, Harvard); Steindachner, Sitz Ber Akad Wiss Wien, cxv, 1896, 1, p 905, Schmidt, Bull Amer Mus Nat Hist liv, 1927, p 438; Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 167, pl vii, figs E-H, Gressitt, Peking Nat Hist Bull xv, 1941, p 189

Liparophis bedoti Peracca, 1904, Rev. Suisse Zool. xii, p 664 (China, Geneva)

Opisthotropis multicincta Fan, 1931, Bull Dept Biol Sun Yat Sen Univ (11), p 82, fig (Lo-siang, Kwangsi Prov).

Internasals about as broad as long, loreal as long as high, not touching the internasal, 1 pre- and 2 or 3 postoculars; temporals 1+2, 8 or 9 supralabials, 4th or 5th, or both, touching the eye, anterior genuals shorter than the posterior, the latter diverging from one another. Scales in 19.19 17 rows, smooth anteriorly, more or less distinctly keeled posteriorly. V 194-205, C. 69-99.

Hemipenis extending to the 9th caudal plate, spinose, the proximal spines being largest. There are three much enlarged basal spines set in a compact longitudinal row. The lips of the sulcus are spinose and are most conspicuous proximally (Pope)

Olivaceous or greyish above, yellow below, with black annuli which are broader than their interspaces above, and about as

broad below, they may be complete or alternate with one another on the mid-ventral line, each black annulus above is divided transversely in two by a yellow line, head blackish above with vertical yellow markings, one in front of, and one behind, the eye, a third at the angle of the mouth

Total length ♀ 790, tail 145 mm.

Range Hainan, Southern China, Tong-King, Cambodia (fide Steindachner)

O. balteatus frequents mountain streams where it may be found under rocks. It is quick in its movements and does not bite when handled

246 *Opisthotropis premaxillaris*.

Paratapinophis premaxillaris Angel, 1929, Bull Mus Hist Nat Paris, (2) 1, p. 75, fig (Chieng-Kuang, Upper Laos, Paris), Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p. 132, fig — *Opisthotropis premaxillaris*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p. 164

Head feebly distinct from neck; internasals nearly twice as long as broad, loreal as high as long, not touching the internasal; 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, temporals 2+2, 9 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 6th prevented by the lower postocular, posterior genials nearly as long as the anterior. Scales in 19 19:17 rows, smooth V 149, C 63 to 67

Brown above, dirty yellowish below; lips whitish, margined with brown

Total length . 215, tail 50 mm

Known only from the types.

247 *Opisthotropis lateralis*.

Opisthotropis lateralis Boulenger, 1903, Ann Mag Nat Hist (7) xi, p. 350 (Man-son Mts., Tong-King, London); Pope, Rept China, 1935, p. 171, fig

Tapinophis shensi Mell, 1930, Sitzb Ges Nat Berlin, p. 321 (Yao-Shan, Kwangsi Province, China)

Internasals as broad as long, loreal longer than high, not touching the internasal; 2 pre- and 2 postoculars, temporals 1+2, 10 or 11 supralabials, 5th and 6th touching the eye, anterior genials longer than the posterior. Scales in 17 rows throughout, smooth anteriorly, more or less distinctly keeled posteriorly. V 159-173, C. 49-56

Hemipenis extending to the 8th caudal plate, spinose proximally, with papilla-like structures distally, the two areas merging into one another; proximal to the spinose area are two large basal spines (Pope)

Olive-brown above, with or without dark longitudinal lines

formed by a black edging to the scales , ventrals and outer scale rows yellowish white

Total length ♀ 360, tail 55 mm

Range Tong-King (Man-son Mts) ; S China (Kwangsi Province).

248 *Opisthotropis andersoni*.

Calamohyrus andersoni Boulenger, 1888, Ann Mag Nat Hist (6) ii, p 44 (Hong Kong, London) — *Opisthotropis andersoni*, Boulenger, l c s (6) vii, 1891, p 343, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 284, pl 18, Wall, l' Z S 1903, p 87, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 166, fig

Internasals twice as long as broad , loreal twice as long as high, not touching the internasal , 1 pre-, 1 post- and 2 suboculars , temporals 1+2 , 8 supralabials, 4th below the eye , anterior genials much larger than the posterior , scales in 17 rows throughout, feebly keeled V. 168 . C 58

Olive-brown above, yellowish below

Total length . ♂ 245, tail 45 mm

Only known from the type-specimen.

249 *Opisthotropis spenceri*.

Opisthotropis spenceri Smith, 1918, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, iii, p 13 (Muang Ngow, N. Siam , London)

Internasals broader than long, in contact with the loreal, which is longer than high , 1 pre- and 2 postoculars , temporals 1+2 or 2+2 , 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye ; anterior genials larger than the posterior. Scales in 17 rows throughout, all smooth

Olivaceous above, yellowish white below, the subcaudals mottled with grey

Total length ♀ 560, tail 150 mm The type is 600 mm in length but has a good deal of the tail missing

Range Known from two specimens, both from the type locality

250 *Opisthotropis jacobii*.

Opisthotropis jacobii Angel & Bourret, 1933, Bull Soc Zool France, xvii, p 129 (Chapa, Tong-King-Yuonan border , Paris) , Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 128, fig

Frontal five times as broad as the supraoculars , internasals nearly twice as long as broad, not touching the loreal , 1 pre- and 1 postocular , temporals 1+1 , 8 or 9 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye , anterior genials nearly twice as large as the posterior scales in 15 rows throughout, smooth V 159-179 ; C, 69-90

Shining black above and below, the ventrals and subcaudals with light edges

Total length ♂ 540, tail 145 mm

Range Tong-King (Chapa, Tam-dao, Ngan-son)

251 *Opisthotropis annamensis*.

Parahelicops annamensis Bourret, 1934, Bull Instr Pub Gen Hanoi, May, p 170 (Bāna, near Tourano, C Annam, Paris), and Serp Indochine, 1936, p 122, fig head

Maxillary teeth 25, the last two slightly larger than the others. Head slightly distinct from neck, internasals a little broader than long, not touching the loreal, 2 pre- and 3 postoculars; 8 or 9 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 6th prevented by the lowest postocular, anterior genials shorter than the posterior. Scales in 17 15 15 rows, smooth anteriorly, feebly keeled at mid body, strongly on the posterior part of the body and tail, V 169, C 123

Dark brown above, with two dorso-lateral series of light, elongated spots, very distinct on the anterior part of the body, disappearing towards the posterior part, head dark brown above, with three more or less distinct light lines radiating from behind the eye, one to the border of the lip, another to the angle of the mouth and a third towards the top of the head, light yellowish brown below, the outer margins of the ventrals spotted with brown

Total length 460, tail 160 mm

Range Known only from the type-specimen

Whilst recognizing the characters upon which Bourret has erected his genus *Parahelicops*, I believe the interests of taxonomy would be best served by extending the definition of *Opisthotropis*

Genus *ASPIDURA*.

ROUGH SIDES

Aspidura Wagler, 1830, Syst Amphib pp 132, 191 (type *Scy brachyorrhos* Boie), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 288, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 310, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 203, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 611

Maxillary teeth 20 to 24, subequal. Head not distinct from neck, nostril between two small nasals and the first labial, directed forwards and outwards, eye moderate, with round or vertically subelliptic pupil, internasal single, no loreal. Body cylindrical, scales smooth, keeled or spinose in the male in the ischiadic region without apical pits, in 15 or 17 rows throughout, ventrals rounded, tail short, subcaudals single or paired. Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column

Common characters, unless otherwise stated —Rostral small, as high as broad or higher, just visible from above, internasal large, as long as the suture between the prefrontals, frontal

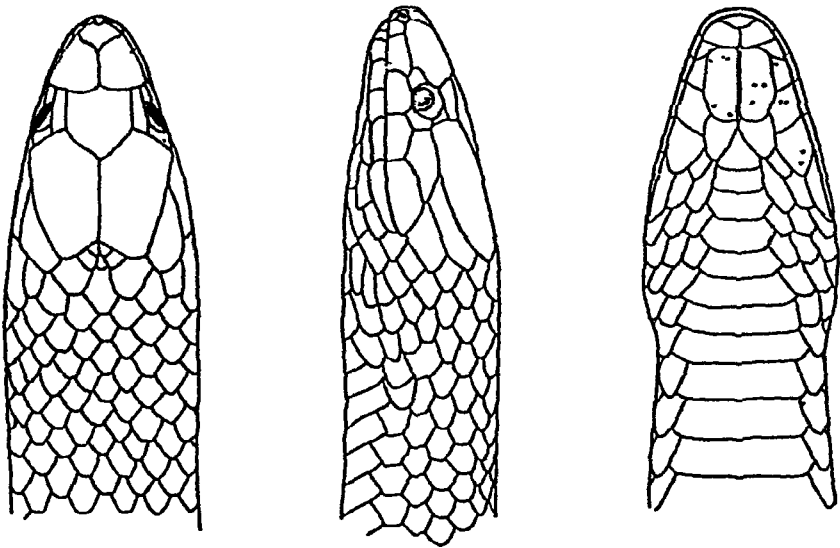


Fig 106 —*Aspídura trachyprocta* (B M 94 9 11 11-14)

Dorsal, lateral and ventral views of head, shewing sensory tubercles

large, 2 to 3 times as broad as the supraoculars, much shorter than the parietals, temporals 1+2; 6 supralabials, 1st very small, 6th largest, 4th touching the eye, 4 infralabials in

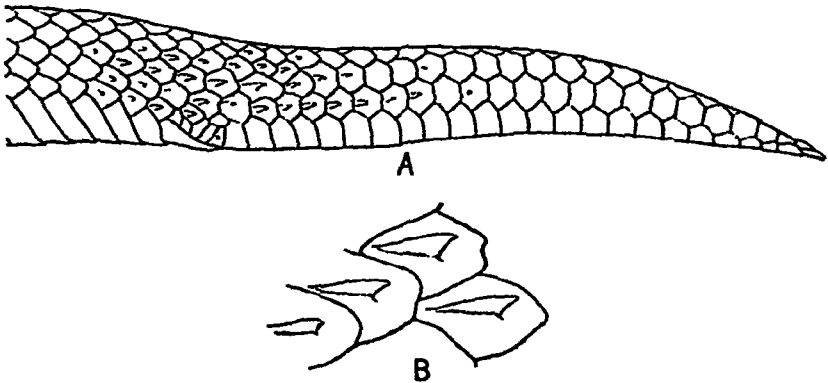


Fig 107 —*Aspídura trachyprocta* (B M 94 9 11 11-14) A Tail and ischiadic region, shewing spinose tubercles of adult male B Four scales magnified

contact with the anterior genials, 1st ventral in contact with the posterior genials; anal single
Hemipenis as in *Trachischium*.

Range. Ceylon and the Maldive Islands.

Five species are known Diminutive, inoffensive snakes, living in soil or among fallen leaves, feeding upon worms and insect larvæ, oviparous

Key to the Species

I. Scales in 17 rows

A. Both postoculars in contact with the parietal.

A preocular, supraocular more than half the length of the frontal

brachyorrhus, p 336.

No preocular, supraocular not half the length of the frontal, snout rounded

copii, p 336

No preocular, supraocular more than half the length of the frontal, snout pointed

drummond-hayi, p. 338

B Only the upper postocular in contact with the parietal

A preocular; snout pointed

guentheri, p 338

II Scales in 15 rows.

A preocular

trachyprocta, p. 337.

252 *Aspidura brachyorrhus*.

Scytale brachyorrhos Boie, 1827, Isis, p. 517 — *Aspidura brachyorrhos*, Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 288, fig, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 311, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 204, fig head and J. Bombay N H S. xix, 1923, p. 611

Calamaria scytale Schlegel, 1837, Phys Serp II, p 42 (based on Boie's specimens of *S brachyorrhos*, Ceylon, Paris)

Snout rounded, frontal not twice as long as the supraocular, 1 preocular, 2 postoculars, both in contact with the parietal, anterior genials three times as long as the posterior, scales in 17 rows, those on either side of the vent feebly keeled in the male V 139-155, C 27-38, single

Pale yellowish- or reddish-brown above, with four more or less distinct darker longitudinal streaks and a vertebral series of blackish dots, an oblique blackish stripe on each side of the nape, belly uniform yellowish, tail more or less abundantly speckled with brown

Total length. ♀ 360, tail 40 mm

Range Ceylon Found generally in the hills, common in the neighbourhood of Kandy. From 2 to 5 eggs are laid at a time

253 *Aspidura copii*.

Aspidura copii Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 203, pl xviii, fig E (Ceylon, London), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 289, and Cat Sn Brit Mus. 1, 1893, p 311, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 208, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 611

Snout rounded, frontal more than twice as long as the

supraoculars, no preocular, 2 postoculars, both in contact with the parietal, anterior genials twice as long as the posterior, scales in 17 rows, strongly keeled on the posterior part of the body and base of the tail in the male V 125-145, C 20-35, usually all entire

Brown above with two longitudinal series of large, black, pale-edged spots, a broad, oblique, black stripe on each side of the nape, lower surface yellowish, spotted or speckled with dark brown

Total length ♂ 415, tail 75, ♀ 405, tail 40 mm (650 mm Wall)

Range Ceylon (Hills of the Uva and Central Provinces)

Not uncommon in the Balangoda district at about 4,000 feet Wall records a specimen containing 21 eggs, 7 in one ovary, 14 in the other.

254 *Aspidura trachyprocta*.

Aspidura trachyprocta Cope, 1860, Proc Acad Nat Sci Philad p. 75 (Ceylon), Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 203, pl xviii, fig F, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 290, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 313, Laidlaw, Fauna Mald and Lacc 1902, p 121, Fletcher, Spol Zeylan, v, 1908, p 98, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 209, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 611

Snout rounded or obtusely pointed, frontal not twice as long as the supraocular, a preocular, sometimes very small or absent, 2 postoculars, both in contact with the parietal; anterior genials 2 to 3 times as long as the posterior, scales in 15 rows, those on either side of the vent and at the base of the tail spinose in the adult male, scales of the chin of the male, particularly the anterior genials, with minute tubercles, scattered tubercles also present upon the shields of the snout V. 125-150, C ♂ 21-26, ♀ 12-18, single

Light or dark brown, or blackish, above, with longitudinal series of small darker spots and a dark lateral streak, most distinct in the young, lower surface yellowish (yellow or red in life), spotted with black or with large quadrangular black spots, or entirely black.

Total length, ♂ 390, tail 40, ♀ 540, tail 35 mm

Range Ceylon (Hills of the Central and Uva Provinces)

Laidlaw records it from the Maldivé Islands (Male Atoll)

Exceedingly common in many hill districts in Ceylon at between 4,000 and 6,000 feet, recorded by Wall up to 7,000 feet He states that the brilliant coloration is seen in both sexes From 4 to 12 eggs are usually deposited, and breeding appears to go on throughout the year

255 *Aspidura drummond-hayi*.

Aspidura drummond-hayi Boulenger, 1904, Spol. Zeyl ii, p 95, pl — (Balangoda dist, Ceylon, London), Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 213, and J. Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 611.

Head long and narrow, snout pointed; frontal not twice as long as the supraocular, no preocular, 2 postoculars, both in contact with the parietal, anterior genials about twice as long as the posterior, scales in 17 rows, those on either side of the vent keeled in the male V 112-120, C 17-26, all paired or the anterior ones single

Light brown to dark grey above and below, strongly iridescent, uniform or finely speckled with lighter.

Total length ♂ 195, tail 30 mm

Range Known only from the type locality.

256. *Aspidura guentheri*.

Aspidura guentheri Ferguson, 1876, P. Z S p 819 (Coast of the W. Province, Ceylon, London); Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 290, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 312; Wall, Sn. Ceylon, 1921, p 208, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 611

Snout obtusely pointed, frontal not twice as long as the supraocular, 1 preocular, 2 postoculars, only the upper in contact with the parietal, anterior genials 3 times as long as the posterior, scales in 17 rows, those on either side of the vent feebly keeled in the male V. 101-116, C 19-26, single

Light or dark brown above and below, the back with 3 longitudinal series of dark, light-edged dots, a vertebral and 2 lateral, head paler above, a yellow nuchal collar, interrupted in the middle and bordered with blackish in front and behind

Total length ♀ 170, tail 20 mm.

Range Ceylon (Coast of the Western Provinces, Balangoda district).

Genus **BLYTHIA**.

Blythia Theobald, 1868, Cat Rept Asiat. Soc Mus p 44 (type *reticulata*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 287, and Cat Sn Brit Mus i, 1893, p 313, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 611

Aproaspidops Annandale, 1912, Rec Ind Mus viii, p 45 (type *antecursorum*)

Maxillary teeth 20 to 22, those in the middle a little longer than the others Head not distinct from neck, eye moderate, with rounded or vertically sub-elliptic pupil, nostril between two small nasals, or between them and the first labial, directed forwards and outwards, no loreal or preocular. Body

cylindrical, scales smooth, in 13 rows, without apical pits, ventrals rounded, tail short, subcaudals paired Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column

A single species

257 *Blythia reticulata*.

Calamaria reticulata Blyth, 1854, J A S Bengal, xxiii, p 287 (Assam, Calcutta) — *Blythia reticulata*, Theobald, Cat Rept Mus Asiat Soc 1868, p 44, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 287, fig, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 314, and Rec Ind Mus ix, 1913, p 338, Annandale, Rec Ind Mus viii, 1912, p 45, Venning, J Bombay N H S xx, 1910 p 336, and 1911, p 771, Wall, ibid xviii, 1908, p 323, and xxix, 1923, p 611, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 484
Ipsoaspisidops antecursorum Annandale, 1912, Rec Ind Mus viii, p 46, pl v, fig 2 (Janak-mukh, Abor Hills, Calcutta)

Rostral as high as broad, visible from above, internasals half, or less than half, the length of the prefrontals frontal

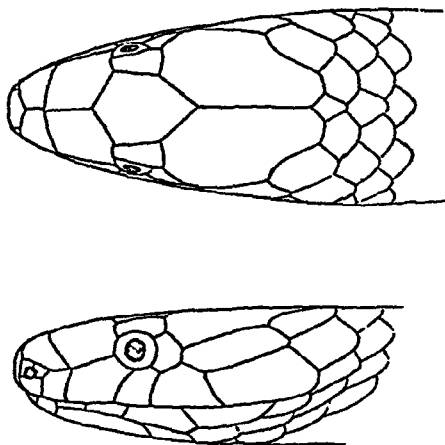


Fig 108 — *Blythia reticulata* (After Boulenger, F B I 1890)

large, nearly twice as broad as the supraoculars, much shorter than the parietals, 1 postocular, 1 long anterior temporal, 6 supralabials, rarely 5, 1st smallest, last largest, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, anterior genials at least twice as long as the posterior, 1st ventral in contact with the posterior genials V 127–155, C ♂ 26–32, ♀ 18–24, A 2

Hemipenis undivided and spinose throughout, the spines being placed on folds of skin which are longitudinally arranged; at the distal end of the organ, and extending for about $\frac{1}{3}$ of its length, are two longitudinal folds.

Olive to blackish above, highly iridescent, the scales sometimes with light specks or borders, young with a white collar

interrupted on the vertebral line, disappearing more or less completely in the adult

Total length ♂ 315, tail 40, ♀ 410, tail 45 mm

Range Assam (Hills north and south of the Brahmaputra to Manipur), Burma (Htingnan in the Triangle, Sima south of Myitkyina, Chin and Lushai Hills).

Oviparous

Genus **HAPLOCERCUS.**

Haplocercus Gunther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p 14 (type *ceylonensis*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 290, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 309, Wall, J Bombay N H S. xxx, 1923, p 610

Maxillary teeth 10 to 12, large, those anterior a little longer than the others Head not distinct from neck, eye moderate,

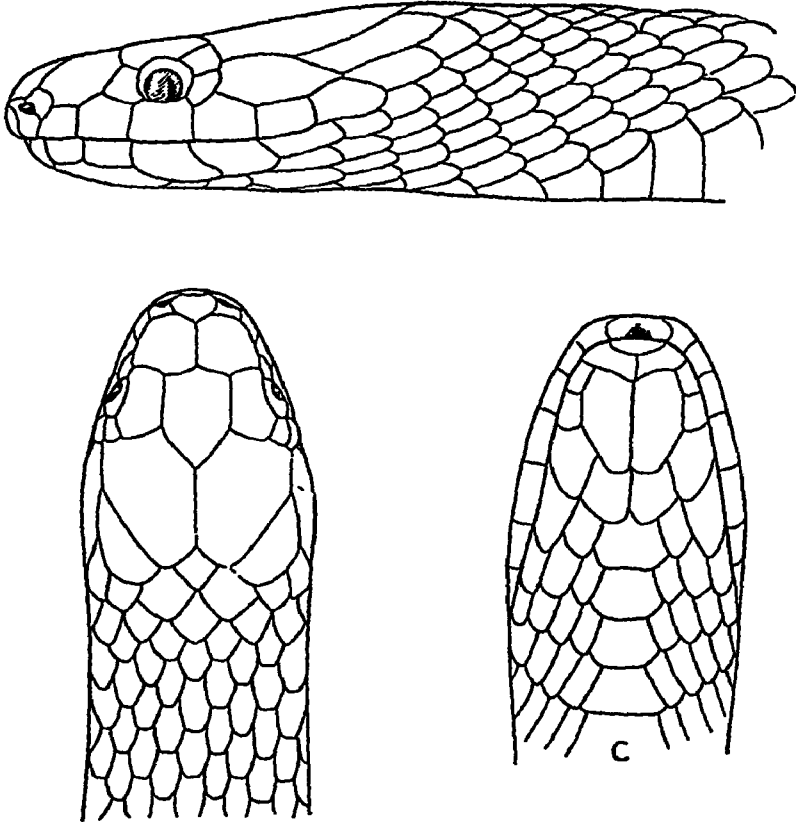


Fig. 109 — *Haplocercus ceylonensis*.

with round pupil, nostril between two nasals and the first labial, the latter shield being fused with the anterior nasal, a single internasal, no loreal, body cylindrical, scales

without apical pits, in 17 rows throughout, ventrals rounded; tail moderate, subcaudals single Hypapophyses present throughout the vertebral column.

A single species

258 *Haplocercus ceylonensis*.

Haplocercus ceylonensis Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit. Mus p 15 (Ceylon, London), and Rept Brit Ind 1864, p. 204, pl xviii, fig G, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 291, and Cat. Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 309, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 610, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 143, fig. *Aspidura carinata* Jan, 1862, Arch Zool. Anat. Phys ii, p 30, and Icon Gen., Liv 13, 1865, pl 1, fig 5 (Ceylon, Milan)

Rostral small, scarcely visible from above, internasal as long as the suture between the prefrontals, frontal longer than broad, usually shorter than its distance from the end of the snout, about twice as broad as the supraoculars, 1 preocular, pointed in front, 2 postoculars, temporals 1+2; 7 supralabials, usually only the 4th touching the eye, anterior genials twice as long as the posterior, 1st ventral in contact with the latter Scales elongate, smooth on the neck, feebly keeled at midbody, strongly keeled on the posterior part of the body and tail V 174-207, C 37-55, A 1.

Hemipenis undivided, extending to the 8th caudal plate; it is spinose throughout, the spines being large and few in number, those adjacent to the sulcus are a little smaller than the others

Brown above, with a black vertebral line, and on each side, a series of small black spots, an oblique, yellowish, black-edged bar on each side of the nape which may disappear in the adult, lower surface uniform yellowish The young are light brown in colour above, with the vertebral line and dorso-lateral spots very conspicuously marked

Total length ♂ 370, tail 55, ♀ 440, tail 60 mm

Range Ceylon (Hills of Central, Uva and Sabaragamuwa Provinces) Common in the Balangoda district at between 3,500 and 4,200 feet altitude (Wall)

Genus XYLOPHIS.

Platypteryx (not of Laspeyres, 1803), Duméril, 1853, Mém Acad. Sci Fr. xxiii, p 468, and Dum & Bib Erp Gen vii, 1854, p 500 (type *perrotetzi*)

Xylophis Beddome, 1878, P. Z S p 576 (type *indicus*); Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 283, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 303; Wall, J. Bombay N H S xxx, 1923, p 610

Maxillary teeth small, 28 to 30, those in the middle a little larger than the others Head not distinct from neck, nostril

between two small nasals, directed forwards and outwards, eye moderate, with rounded or vertically sub-elliptic pupil, loreal elongate, touching the eye, no preocular, anterior genials very large, in contact with the mental. Body cylindrical, scales smooth, without apical pits, in 13 or 15 rows throughout, ventrals rounded, tail short, subcaudals paired. Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column.

Common characters, unless otherwise stated —Rostral small, as high as broad, frontal very large, 3 to 4 times broader than the supraoculars, 1 postocular, 1 long anterior temporal, anterior genials very large, occupying most of the

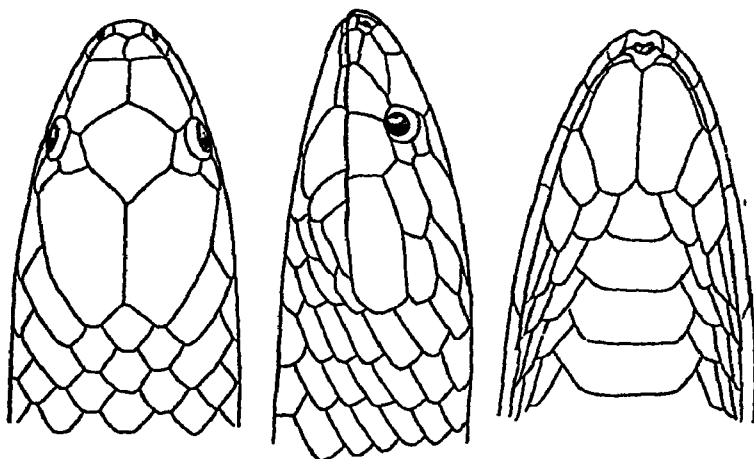


Fig 110 —*Xylophis perroteti*

chin and reducing the first three infralabials to narrow strips, posterior genials very small, in contact with one another or separated by a scale, first ventral in contact with the posterior genials, anal single.

Range Hills of Southern India. Two species are known.

Key to the Species.

Scales in 13 rows, supraocular larger than the postocular

perroteti, p 342

Scales in 15 rows, supraocular not larger than the postocular

stenorhynchus, p 343

259 *Xylophis perroteti*.

Platypteryx perroteti Dum & Bib 1854, Erp Gen vii, p. 501 (Nilgiris, Paris), Jan, Icon Gen 1865, Liv 12, pl 1, fig 1—

Xylophis perroteti, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 283, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p 304, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxvi, 1919, p 564, and xxix, 1923, pp 398, 610.

Rhabdosoma microcephalum Gunther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit

Mus. p. 12 (Madras Presidency ; London) — *Geophis microcephalus*, Günther, Rept. Brit Ind 1864, p 200, pl. xviii, fig A.

Internasals very small, the suture between them half the length of that between the prefrontals, loreal more than twice as long as high, supraocular much larger than the postocular; 5 supralabials, 1st very small, 2nd long and narrow, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 5th largest. Scales in 13 rows V 139–147, C. ♂ 27–38, ♀ 16–20.

Hemipenis forked for $\frac{3}{4}$ of its length; it is flounced throughout, the folds on the distal part being oblique, gradually changing until at the fork they are transverse; proximal to the bifurcation there are smooth longitudinal folds; there are no spines.

Light or dark brown, with small darker spots longitudinally arranged or united to form stripes, sometimes with an ill-defined yellow collar, lower parts dirty yellowish, spotted with black, or almost entirely black.

Günther's type of *microcephalum* is uniform dark brown above and below, the scales on the posterior part of the body and tail having a yellow centre or tip.

Total length: ♂ 550, tail 70, ♀ 620, tail 40 mm.

Range Western Ghats (Wynaad to Tinnevely).

260 *Xylophis stenorhynchus*.

Geophis stenorhynchus Günther, 1875, P. Z. S p 230 (Travancore; London) — *Xylophis stenorhynchus*, Boulenger, F. B I. 1890, p 304, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1, 1893, p. 304, pl. xx, fig 1; Wall, J. Bombay N. H S xxix, 1923, p 610.

Xylophis indicus Beddome, 1878, P. Z. S p 576 (Cumbum Valley, Madura, 5,000 feet, London).

Snout declivous and more pointed than in *perroteti*; internasals variable in size, sometimes very small, sometimes nearly as long as the prefrontals, loreal longer than in *perroteti*, often extending anteriorly nearly to the border of the mouth, reducing the second labial to a narrow strip; supraocular not or scarcely larger than the postocular; 5 supralabials, 1st minute, 5th largest, 3rd and 4th touching the eye. Scales in 15 rows. V 108–132, C 14–31.

Hemipenis deeply forked as in *perroteti*; the proximal end has transverse flounces, distally these are united and form calyces.

Dark brown above, uniform or with three rather indistinct darker longitudinal lines, and a yellowish collar; lower surfaces uniform dark brown.

Total length · 230, tail 20 mm.

Range. Western Ghats (Anaimalais to Tinnevely).

Genus **BOIGA**.

CAT SNAKES

- Boiga* Fitzinger, 1826, Neue Class Rept pp 29, 31, 60 (type *Coluber irregularis* Merrem), Werner, Arch Naturg Berlin, 1924 (1925), xii, p 118, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1924, p 873
- Macrocephalus* Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept. p 27 (type *Dipsas drapiezii* Boie)
- Gonyodipsas* Fitzinger, 1843, l c s p 27 (type *Dipsas irregularis*)
- Dipsadomorphus* Fitzinger, 1843, l c s p 27 (type *trigonatus*), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 59, Wall, J Bombay N. H S xxix, 1924, p 869, Werner, Arch Naturg Berlin, 1924 (1925), ii, A, 12, p 118
- Eudipsas* Fitzinger, 1843, l c s p 27 (type *dendrophila*)
- Opetiodon* Duméril, 1853, Prodr Class Ophid p 98 (type *cynodon*)
- Triglyphodon* Duméril, 1853, l c s p 111 (type *irregularis*)
- Toxicodryas* Hallowell, 1857, Proc Acad Nat Sci Philad p 60 (type *blandingi*)
- Pappophis* Macleay, 1877, Proc Linn Soc NS Wales, ii, p 39 (type *laticeps*=*irregularis*)
- Liophallus* Cope, 1895, Proc Acad Nat. Sci Philad p 427 (type *fuscus*)
- Dipsas*, Boulenger, F. B I 1890, p 357

Maxillary teeth 10 to 14, subequal in size, followed by 2 or 3 enlarged, grooved fangs, palatine teeth often strongly enlarged, ectopterygoid more or less distinctly forked

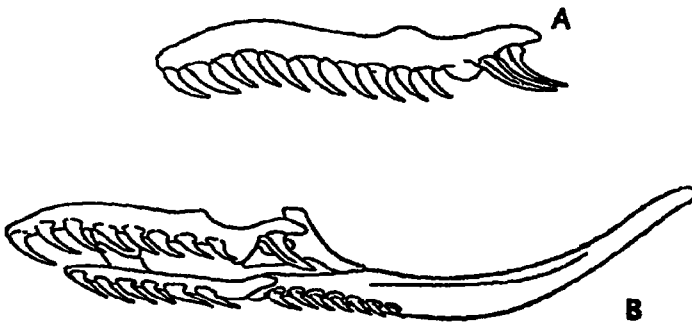
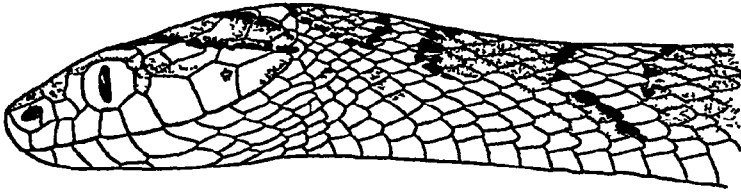


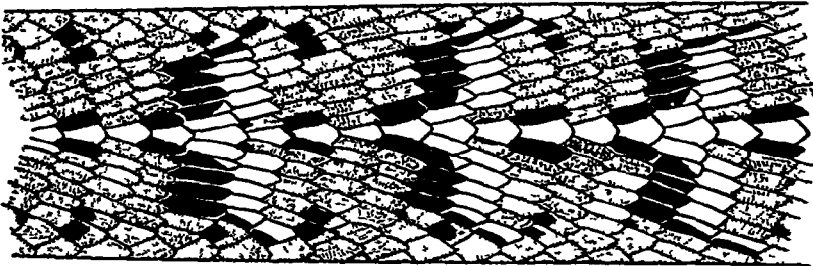
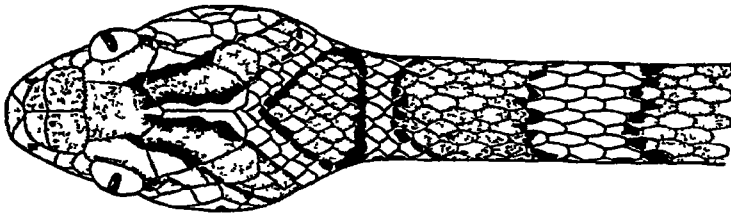
Fig. 111.—*Boiga trigonata* A. Maxilla B Palato-maxillary arch. C Two views of head (B M. 69 8 28 79-80) D Dorsal and lateral pattern

anteriorly, the two branches articulating with the maxilla. Head very distinct from neck, eye large, with vertical pupil. Body more or less compressed; scales smooth, more or less oblique, with apical pits, in 19 to 29 rows, the vertebral series more or less enlarged, ventrals rounded or obtusely angulate laterally, tail moderate or long, subcaudals paired. Hypapophyses present on the posterior dorsal vertebrae in all the Asiatic species.

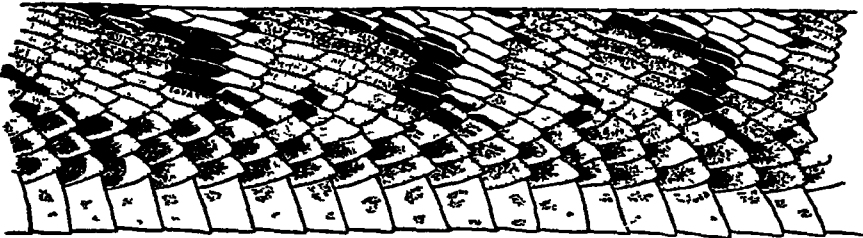
Common characters, unless otherwise stated.—Nostril between two nasals, the posterior more or less distinctly concave, internasals shorter than the prefrontals, frontal as broad, or nearly as broad, as long, eye large. its diameter at least twice



C



D



its distance from the border of the mouth, equal to its distance from the nostril; rostral small, squarish or pointed posteriorly; 2, rarely 3, postoculars; 8 supralabials, 4th, 5th and 6th touching the eye, anal entire; hemipenis not forked

The apical pits may be single or paired. They are single in *multimaculata*, *ochracea*, *trigonata*, *gokool*, *ceylonensis*, *multifasciata* and *cynodon*. In the others they may be single or double, but there is no regular order in which they are arranged. *D. barnesi* not examined.

In all the members of this genus that I have examined, the anal sac, particularly in the female, is unusually long.

Wall, under *B. multifasciata* (1909), has commented upon what may occur in the members of this genus, namely, the division and reunion of the vertebral row of scales, so that the number of scale-rows is alternately diminished and increased. I can confirm his remarks.

Range. Southern Asia, Tropical Africa, Papuasia, Tropical Australia.

Some 25 species are known.

All the members of the genus included in this work are nocturnal and mainly arboreal in their habits. They prefer bushes and shrubs to high trees, and when at rest coil themselves into a ball rather than lie extended as do other snakes (*Ahaetulla*, *Dryophis*, *Chrysopelea*). As far as is known, all are oviparous. Most of them are extremely vicious in disposition, and their method of coiling the body and mode of attack has been described by Wall and is here given under *B. trigonata*. All those I know have the habit of "rattling" the tail when agitated. Their food, as one would expect from their arboreal habits, consists mainly of birds and their eggs, and the tree haunting lizards, in particular the members of the genus *Calotes*. They kill their prey by constriction.

Key to the Species.

I Scales in 19 or 21 (23) rows

A. Preocular not reaching the upper surface of the head.

- Scales in 19 rows; body with large rounded spots *multimaculata*, p. 347.
- Scales in 19 rows; body uniform brown above, V. 221-246; C. 89-107 *ochracea walli*, p. 349.
- Scales in 21 rows; body uniform brown above, V. 223-252; C. 100-119 *ochracea ochracea*, [p. 348.]
- Scales in 21 rows; vertebrals feebly enlarged, their posterior margins rounded or obtusely pointed; a dorsal series of branched spots *trigonata*, p. 349.
- Scales in 21 (19) rows, vertebrals strongly enlarged, their posterior margins truncate or concave; a dorsal series of branched spots *gokool*, p. 351.

B. Preocular reaching the upper surface of the head.

- Scales in 19 rows; 3 preoculars, V. 208-220; C. 98-100 *barnesi*, p. 354.

- Scales in 19 rows, hemipenis not spinous, V. 237-242, C 118-120 . *quincunciata*, p 353
- Scales in 19 or 21 (23) rows, hemipenis spinous, back with dark vertebral spots or transverse bars . *nylonensis*, p 351
- Scales in 21 rows, back with narrow black cross-bars and whitish vertebral spots . *multifasciata*, p 357
- Scales in 21 rows; temporals small, scale-like; back with large elongated spots . *multitemporalis*, p 356
- Scales in 21 rows, colour uniform green (brown in the juvenile) . *cyanea*, p 355
- II Scales in 23 to 29 rows
- Scales in 23, rarely 25, rows, C 122-157 *cynodon*, p 357
- Scales in 23 rows, C 95-102 *daytona*, p. 359
- Scales in 25-29 rows, C 102-119 *forsteri*, p 358

261 *Boiga multimaculata*.

LARGE-SPOTTED CAT SNAKE

- Russell, 1801, Ind Serp ii, p 27, pl xxiii (Java)
- Dipsas multimaculata* Boie, 1827, Isis, p 549 (Java) — *Dipsas multimaculata*, Schlegel, Phys Serp ii, 1837, p 265, pl xi, figs 4 & 5, and Abbild Amphib 1844, pl xiv, figs. 13-15; Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 360 — *Dipsadomorphus multimaculatus*, Boulenger, Cat Sn. Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 64, Wall & Evans, J Bombay N H S xii, 1900, p 346, and 1901, p 615, Wall, ibid xii, 1901, p 534, and xxix, 1924, p 869, and xxx, 1925, p 818, and xxxi, 1925, p 564, Prater, ibid xxxviii, 1935, p 201 — *Boiga multimaculata*, Smith, J N. H S Siam, vi, 1923, p 203, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 330, pl xv, D-I; Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 311
- Boiga multimaculata hainanensis* * Mell, 1929, Lingnan Sci J. viii, p 213
- Boiga multimaculata indica* Mell, 1929, Lingnan Sci J. viii, p 213 (Continental India)

Maxillary teeth 9 or 10+2, anterior palatine teeth not strongly enlarged, 1, rarely 2, preoculars, not reaching the upper surface of the head, temporals 2+2 or 2+3, posterior genials as long, or nearly as long, as the anterior, usually in contact with one another. Scales in 19. 19 15 or 13 rows, the vertebrals fairly strongly enlarged, V 202-245, C 80-109

Hemipenis extending to the 10th-12th caudal plate; the distal half is calyculate, the cups' being thick-walled and feebly scalloped, on the ventral surface there are a number of coarse spines, the spines are fleshy, only the tip being exposed; there are about 16 in lateral series, the proximal half is spineless.

Greyish brown above, with two alternating series of large, rounded or oval, dark brown, often light-edged, spots, and two other series of much smaller spots on the sides of the body, small vertebral spots may be present, two broad dark brown or black longitudinal stripes on the top of the

* Corrected to *sikangensis* Mell, in his "Separate" sent to me

head, diverging posteriorly, a longitudinal stripe or elongated mark on the nape, and another from the eye to the angle of the mouth, lower parts whitish, marbled or spotted with brown, and with a series of brown spots along each side

Total length ♂ 800, tail 190, ♀ 990, tail 190 mm

Range Burma, as far north as lat 22°, Assam (Sylhet), Siam and the adjacent islands of the Gulf as far south as lat 12°, French Indo-China, Southern China, Hainan, Hong Kong

There is no evidence to show that it inhabits Tenasserim or Siam south of lat 12°, or the Malay Peninsula, but it occurs in Java, Sumatra and Borneo

The Large-spotted Cat Snake is not uncommon in northern Tenasserim, Southern Burma and Central Siam, inhabiting forested localities. It feeds on lizards (mainly *Calotes* species) and small birds. In disposition it is fierce and bites readily when handled

262 *Boiga ochracea*.

TAWNY CAT SNAKE

(*Boiga ochracea ochracea*)

Dipsas ochraceus Günther, 1868, Ann Mag Nat Hist. (4) 1, p 425 ("Pegu" London)

Dipsas hexagonatus (non Blyth), Stoliczka, 1871, J A S Bengal, xl, p 439, Anderson, P Z S 1871, p 185 (in part), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 361 (in part)—*Dipsadomorphus hexagonotus* (non Blyth), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 65 (in part), Wall, Rec Ind Mus iii, 1909, p 154, and J Bombay N H S xix, 1909, p 352, Annandale, Rec Ind Mus iii, 1909, p 281

Dipsadomorphus stoliczkae Wall, 1909, Rec Ind Mus iii, p 155 (Darjeeling no type made), and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 872—*Boiga stoliczkae*, Shaw, Shebb & Barker, J Bengal N H S xx, 1940, p 66

(*Boiga ochracea walli*)

Dipsas hexagonotus (non Blyth), Stoliczka, 1870, J A S. Bengal, xxxix, p 198, pl xi, fig 4, Wall & Evans, J Bombay N H S xiii, 1901, p 615—*Dipsadomorphus hexagonatus* (non Blyth) Wall, J Bombay N H S xxxix, 1924, p 870, and xxx, 1925, p 818, and xxxi, 1926, p 564, Venning, ibid xx, 1910, p 342, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 65 (in part), Annandale, Rec Ind Mus iii, 1909, p 281

Maxillary teeth 10 to 12+2, anterior palatine teeth not strongly enlarged, normally 1 preocular, not reaching the upper surface of the head, temporals 2+2 or 2+3, anterior genials about as long as the posterior, latter in contact with one another or separated by small scales, vertebrae strongly enlarged.

Hemipenis as in *multimaculata*.

Greyish, reddish, or yellowish brown above (? coral red in life), some of the scales finely edged with black and forming

more or less distinct transverse lines or bars, best marked in the young; the vertebral series of scales sometimes lighter than the others, paler below, lips and chin whitish.

Total length. ♂ 1050, tail 235, ♀ 1100, tail 215 mm

Two races —

Boiga ochracea ochracea

Scales in 21 21 17 rows V 223–252, C 100–119

Range Eastern Himalayas (Sikkim, Darjeeling district, Buxar Duars), Assam (Goalpara, Sibsagar, Cachar) A common snake in the Duars

Boiga ochracea walki, nom nov

Scales in 19 19·15 rows V 221–246, C 89–107

Range. Burma, south of lat 25°, Tenasserim, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Wall has pointed out (1909) that Blyth's *hexagonatus* is a juvenile specimen of *cyanea*, but his wish to retain the name *hexagonatus* by transferring the authorship to Stoliczka is not possible under the Rules of Nomenclature. The name *hexagonatus* must become a synonym of *cyanea*, and the next one available is Gunther's *ochracea*. The type has 21 scale-rows and is therefore the Himalayan form, and the locality (Pegu) from which it is said to have come is no doubt an error. Beddome, from whom the specimen came, was never in Burma, and his localities have been shown to be incorrect on many occasions.

Wall's *stoliczkae* with 21 scale-rows, therefore becomes a synonym of *ochracea ochracea*, and the Burma form is left without a name. I have pleasure in naming it after him. I regard it as a race of *ochracea*.

263 *Boiga trigonata*.

INDIAN GAMMA

- Russell, 1796, Ind Serp 1, p 20, pl xv (Vizagapatam)
Coluber trigonatus Schneider, 1802, in Bechst transl. Lacép iv, p 256, pl xl, fig 1 (Vizagapatam) — *Dipsas trigonata*, Blyth, J A S Bengal, xxiii, 1855, p 294, Blanford, J A S Bengal, xlviii, 1879, p 131; Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 358, and P. Z S 1891, p 633, Wall, J Bombay N. H S xvi, 1905, p 307 — *Dipsadomorphus trigonatus*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 62, Wall, J Bombay N. H S xviii, 1907, p 120, and 1908, p 543, col pl, and xiv, 1909, p 267, and xxvi, 1919, p 569, and xxix, 1924, p 871, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 269, Ingoldby, J Bombay N. H S xxix, 1923, p 129, Fraser, ibid xxxix, 1937, p 482, Shaw & Shebb, J Darjeeling N. H S iv, 1930, p 55, Shaw, Shebb & Barker, J Bengal N. H S xv, 1940, p 64 — *Boiga trigonatum*, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, p 187, pl vi
Dipsadomorphus trigonata var *melanocephalus* Annandale, 1904..

J. A S Bengal, lxxiii, p 209, pl 9, figs 3 & 4 (Perso-Baluchistan frontier, Calcutta)

Coluber sagittatus Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool. iii, (2) p 526 (India, based on Russell's pl)

Coluber catenularis Daudin, 1803, Hist. Nat. Rept. vi, p 253, pl lxxv, fig 2 (Bengal: Paris)

Maxillary teeth 8 to 10+2, anterior palatine teeth not strongly enlarged, 1 preocular, not reaching the upper surface of the head, temporals 2+3, posterior genials as long as, or longer than, the anterior, separated from one another by small scales. Scales in 21 21 15 rows, vertebrals feebly enlarged V 206-256, C 75-96

Hemipenis as in *multimaculata*

Light yellowish or greyish brown above, uniform, or speckled with darker, and with a vertebral series of large, light, black-edged, angular or A-shaped, or γ-shaped spots, which may be connected to one another on the vertebral line, lower parts whitish, uniform or with small black spots on the outer margins of the ventrals, head with light symmetrical markings, sometimes black-edged, viz, a median stripe starting from the frontal and diverging at the posterior end of the parietals, the two arms extending on to the neck, a light stripe from above the eye to the angle of the jaw

Annandale's *melanocephalus* is based on three specimens with dark heads

Total length ♂ 825, tail 140, ♀ 990, tail 180 mm

Range Ceylon (Uva Province), the whole of the Peninsula of India, extending in the north-west to Baluchistan, the N W Frontier Provinces and Transcaspiæ, W. Himalayas (Sabathu, Almora), Eastern Himalayas (Sikkim, Northern Bengal).

Wall (1908 and 1921) has given good accounts of the habits of this common Indian snake, and his colour plate is excellent. The following points are taken from his remarks —

In disposition, like other members of its genus, it is one of the most intrepid snakes I know. With no further provocation than being suddenly disturbed, it will assume an attitude of defiance and act boldly on the offensive. The attitude adopted is very characteristic. The head and forebody are raised well off the ground, the latter thrown into loops, more or less in a figure of 8, the head poised in the middle. Prior to the stroke, the body is inflated and deflated with agitation, and the tail briskly vibrated. The stroke is delivered with great malice, the jaws open widely, and as soon as it is delivered the creature resumes its former attitude, only to strike again and again. It feeds mainly on lizards of the genus *Calotes*, but will also devour small birds and mammals, killing them by constriction. From 3 to 11 eggs are laid, the young when born measure between 237 and 260 mm in length. Females appear to grow much larger than males.

264 *Boiga gokool*.

EASTERN GAMMA.

Dipsas gokool Gray, 1834, Ill Ind Zool n, pl 83, fig 1 (Bengal, London), Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 360 — *Dipsadomorphus gokool*, Annandale, Rec Ind Mus 1912, p 49, Boulenger, Cat. Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 64, Wall, J Bombay N H S xix, 1910, p 831, and xxix, 1924, p 871; Shaw & Shebb J. Darjeeling N H Soc. iv, 1930, p 56, Shaw, Shebb & Barker, J Bengal N H. Soc xv, 1940, p 64

Closely related to *trigonata* of which it appears to be the Indo-Chinese representative. It differs in the following characters — Maxillary teeth 9 to 12+2, 1 or 2 preoculars, posterior genials in contact with one another. Scales in 21 (19) 21 (19) 17 rows, vertebrals strongly enlarged V. 219-232, C 87-103

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, the distal half is calyculate, the cups being large, longer than broad, and finely scalloped with spinous edges; the proximal half is as in *multimaculata*

Yellowish brown above, with a series of vertical Y-shaped or T-shaped markings on each side of the back, separated from one another by a light vertebral line, head with a large, arrow-shaped, brown, black-edged mark, longitudinally bisected, a black stripe from the eye to the angle of the mouth, lower parts whitish, with an almost continuous series of brown or black spots on each side of the ventrals, labials brown

Total length ♂ 800, tail 170, ♀ 870, tail 175 mm
Mr P E Barker tells me that he obtained one 4 feet in length (1200 mm)

Range The Eastern Himalayas as far west as Darjeeling, Assam as far south as lat 24° N., Chittagong

A common snake in the Duars In disposition and habits like *trigonata* (Wall, 1910).

Variation — A specimen labelled Chittagong (? Chittagong Hills) in the Bombay Coll has only 19 19 15 scale-rows

265 *Boiga ceylonensis*.

CEYLON CAT SNAKE

Dipsadomorphus ceylonensis Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn. Brit Mus p 176 (Ceylon; London); Boulenger, Cat Sn. Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 66, Wall, Rec Ind Mus 1909, p 152, and J. Bombay N H S xxvi, 1919, p. 570, and xxix, 1924, p 870, and Sn. Ceylon, 1921, p 278 — *Dipsas ceylonensis*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 314, pl xxiii, fig B, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 359

Dipsas nuchalis Günther, 1875, P. Z S p 233 (West coast of India, London) — *Dipsadomorphus nuchalis*, Wall, Rec Ind Mus iii, 1909, p 153, and J Bombay N H S xxi, 1911, p 279, and xxvi, 1918, p 571, and xxix, 1924, p 872.

Dipsadomorphus beddomei Wall, 1909, Rec Ind Mus iii, p 152 (Ceylon), and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 282, and J. Bombay N H S xxix, 1924, p 870

Dipsadomorphus andamanensis Wall, 1909, Rec Ind Mus. III, p 153 (Andamans, Calcutta).—*Borja andamanensis* Wall, J Bombay N H S XXX, 1924, p 873

Maxillary teeth 12 to 20+2, anterior palatine teeth not strongly enlarged, 1 preocular, extending to the upper surface of the head, often touching the frontal, temporals 3+3 or 3+4, genials variable, the posterior usually in contact with one another, at least anteriorly. Scales in 19 or 21 (rarely 23) rows, vertebrae strongly enlarged V 214–267, C 90–133

Hemipenis as in *multimaculata*

Greyish brown above, with a series of vertebral, dark brown, black-edged or blackish, transverse, rarely oblique, spots, sometimes continued, or alternating, as transverse bars on the sides of the body. Each vertebral spot covers from 5 to 8 scales, and usually each scale has a dark edging, nape with a dark blotch or transverse bar, sometimes broken up, usually a distinct dark streak from the eye to the angle of the mouth, lower parts yellowish white, speckled or powdered with brown, a more or less continuous series of dark brown spots on the outer sides of the ventrals generally present

Total length ♂ 1020, tail 240, ♀ 1315, tail 255 mm

Wall, who has examined many more specimens than are available to me, states that the male appears to grow much larger than the female. It must be remembered, however, that his conception of *ceylonensis* is restricted to Ceylon and southern India.

He has divided *ceylonensis* into four forms, giving each one specific rank. The differences between them are summarized in the following table —

Species	Max teeth	Scales	V	C	Range
<i>ceylonensis</i>	14–20+2	19 · 19 · 15 or 13	214–235	98–108	W Ghats, Ceylon
<i>beddomei</i>	12–13+2	19 19 15 or 13	248–266	113–127	W Ghats, Ceylon,
<i>nuchalis</i>	14+2	21 (23) 21 (23) 15	234–251	90–108	Ganjam Dist W Ghats, Nepal, Assam
<i>andaman- ensis</i>	13+2	21 · 21 15	259–267	118–133	Andaman Is

These figures are confirmed by the material in the British Museum which I have examined, but, except for the differences in the number of scales round the body and the ventral and

caudal counts, I am unable to find any morphological characters by which to separate them, it is possible that more material will upset Wall's figures, and leave us with one extremely variable species and a number of races. The wide range in ventral and caudal counts cannot be correlated with sexual difference.

Range Nearly all the specimens have been obtained in the Western Ghats and Ceylon, and in these regions it is not uncommon. Occasional individuals have been recorded from Ganjam, Berhampur in Orissa, Chitlong in Nepal, and Sibsagar and Northern Cachar in Assam. All of these latter have 21 scale-rows at mid-body and I am not satisfied that they are *ceylonensis*. The two specimens, both juveniles, from Nepal (Indian Museum) differ in having only two anterior temporals and a somewhat different colour-pattern, the vertebral spots being absent and in their place a series of transverse or oblique bars, this colour-pattern agrees with the specimen described by Wall (xxi, 1911) from Orissa. I have not seen the specimens mentioned by him from Assam or Ganjam. The form from the Andaman Islands is also referred to under *B. cyanea*.

266 *Boiga quincunciata*.

Dipsadomorphus quincuncratus Wall, 1908, J. Bombay N. H. S. xviii, p. 272, pl. — (Tinsukia, Assam, London, type lost), and xix, 1910, p. 832, and xxix, 1924, p. 869. — *Boiga quincunciata*, Smith, Rec. Ind. Mus. xlii, 1940, p. 484.

Maxillary teeth 11 or 12+2, anterior palatine teeth not strongly enlarged, loreal in one specimen united with the

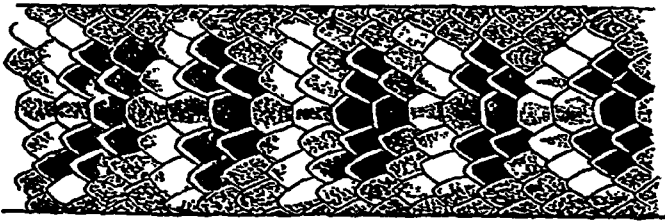


Fig. 112 —Dorsal pattern of *Boiga quincunciata*

prefrontal; 1 preocular, reaching the upper surface of the head, temporals 2+3 or 3+3, posterior genials as large as or a little larger than the anterior, partly or completely separated by small scales. Scales in 19·19·15 or 13 rows, vertebrals fairly strongly enlarged. V. 237–253, C 118–125, A 1 or 2.

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate; reaching from the tip of the organ nearly to the base are two prominent

folds, composed of large, fleshy, closely-set, pointed papillæ, between them and the sulcus are similarly-shaped papillæ arranged in longitudinal series, but less closely set, in general appearance they resemble the fleshy spinose papillæ which hemipenes of the other members of the genus have, but I am unable to detect any spines, the extreme tip of the organ is calyculate

Yellowish or greyish brown above, finely speckled with dark brown, and with a vertebral series of dark brown or black spots or blotches, each spot covers from 5 to 8 scales, and each scale is edged with white, between the spots are more or less distinct whitish areas, sides of the body speckled or spotted with brown, with or without a series of small, more or less distinct, brown spots, alternating with the vertebral ones, yellowish white below, thickly speckled with brown and with a more or less distinct series of white-and-brown spots on the outer margins of the ventrals, nape with three longitudinal stripes, top of the head brown, the frontal and parietals black, edged with white, a black stripe from the eye to the angle of the mouth

Total length ♂ 1550, tail 365, ♀ 1260, tail 310 mm

Range Assam (Tinsukia and Rangara, both near Dibrugarh),
Upper Burma (Htingnan, north east of Fort Hertz)

Known from four specimens, and the type

267 Boiga barnesi.

Dipsas barnesi Günther, 1869, P. Z. S. p. 506, pl. xl, fig. 2 (Ceylon, London), Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 359—*Dipsadomorphus barnesi*, Boulenger, Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. iii, 1896, p. 73, Wall, Sn. Ceylon, 1921, p. 283, and J. Bombay N. H. S. xxix, 1924, p. 869.

Maxillary teeth 13 or 14+2, anterior palatine teeth not strongly enlarged, eye three times as large as its distance from the mouth, longer than its distance from the nostril, 3 preoculars, the upper extending to the upper surface of the head, temporals 2+3, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, the 3rd just excluded, anterior genials smaller than the posterior, latter completely separated by small scales Scales in 19 19 15 rows, vertebrals feebly enlarged V 208-220, C 98-100

Hemipenis as in *multimaculata*

Grayish brown above, with lighter, black-edged, transverse spots, and a series of smaller black spots on each side, sometimes extending on to the ventrals, lower parts whitish, thickly powdered with brown, labials with black sutures, a dark stripe from the eye to the angle of the mouth, bordered above by a light one

Total length · ♂ 550, tail 130 mm.

Range Ceylon (Gangaruwa)

Known from two specimens, the second being in the Colombo Museum. The type, which is the only one that I have seen, is a juvenile, and this probably accounts for the unusually large eye.

268 *Boiga cyanea*.

GREEN CAT SNAKE

- Triglyphodon cyaneum* Dum & Bib, 1854, *Erp Gen* vii p 1079 (type loc unknown, Paris)—*Dipsas cyanea*, Boulenger, *F B I* 1890, p 361, Evans, *J Bombay N H S* xiii, 1901, p 553, Wall & Evans, *ibid* xiii, 1900, p 188—*Dipsadomorphus cyaneus*, Boulenger, *Cat Sn Brit Mus* iii, 1896, p 72, Evans, *J Bombay N H S* xvi, 1904, p 170, Wall, *ibid* xviii, 1908, p 329, and xix, 1909, p 353, and *Rec Ind. Mus* iii, 1909, p 154, Smith & Kloss, *J Nat Hist Soc Siam*, i, 1915, p 246—*Boiga cyanea*, Wall, *J Bombay N H S* xxix, 1924, p 873, Smith, *Bull Raffles Mus* no 3, 1930, p 64; Bourret, *Serp Indochine*, 1936, p 317, Shaw, Shebb & Barker, *J Bengal N H Soc* xv, 1940, p 67.
- Dipsas nigromarginata* Blyth, 1854, *J A S Bengal*, xxiii, p 294 (Assam)
- Dipsas hexagonatus* Blyth, 1856, *J A S Bengal*, xxiv, p 360 (no type loc given), ? Stoliczka, *ibid* xxxix, 1870, p 198 (in part)
- Dipsas bubalina* Günther, 1864, *Rept Brit Ind* p 311, pl xxiv, fig E (type loc unknown, London); Stoliczka, *J A S Bengal*, xl, 1871, p 441

Maxillary teeth 12 to 14+2, anterior palatine teeth not strongly enlarged, 1 preocular, reaching the upper surface of the head, temporals 2+3, posterior genials about as long as the anterior, in contact with one another or separated by small scales. Scales in 21 21 15 rows, vertebrae fairly strongly enlarged. V 237–257, with a feeble lateral keel, C 124–138.

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, the distal half is calyculate, the cups being very large with scalloped, spinose edges, proximal to this there is a short area having 6–8 longitudinal series of thick, fleshy spines, the remainder of the organ has smooth longitudinal folds.

Green above, greenish white below, uniform or spotted with darker green, interstitial skin black; chin and throat blue in life.

The young when born are light brown or reddish or pinkish, with or without indications of dark cross-bars (*vide* Blyth and Stoliczka).

Total length ♂ 1400, tail 340, ♀ 1860, tail 440 mm

Range Darjeeling district (Tindharia), Assam (Cachar, Sonapur, Monacherra), Burma (Maymyo, Rangoon district, Tavoy), Siam (Nakon Lampang, Dong Rek Mts and islands

of the Gulf, viz, Koh Pennan, Koh Pa-Ngan) Cambodia (Bokor), Cochinchina, Pulo Condore

The Green Cat Snake, in spite of its wide distribution is nowhere common. It is sluggish in its habits and makes no attempt to escape when handled, but opens its mouth widely and remains on the defensive. With its green head, large golden-brown eyes, and the black inside to its mouth, it presents a strange sight. One that I kept in captivity, ate in succession 5 snakes; namely, 1 *Oligodon taeniatus*, 2 baby *Ancistrodon rhodostoma*, and 2 *Trimeresurus albolabris*. The last viper was fully grown, and there must have been a long struggle between them, to judge by the appearance of the cage with everything scattered about in disorder.

The specimen in Boulenger's Catalogue, p. 72, labelled Darjeeling, is *Boiga multifasciata*.

The literature concerning *Dipsas hexagonatus* by Blyth 1856 and 1863, and by Stoliczka 1870, is not as clear as it might be. Blyth apparently had five specimens, all juveniles. One is *Boiga cyanea*, and may have come from Calcutta (*vide* Gunther). It is described by Blyth as "bright ruddy ferruginous, inclining to coral red. paler below and mottled with black bordering some of the scales of the upper part." The other four, which undoubtedly came from the Andamans, are referred here to *Boiga ceylonensis*, for I cannot find any morphological character by which to separate them from that species.

269 *Boiga multitemporalis*.

Boiga multitemporalis Bourret, 1935, Bull. Gen. Instr. Pub. Hanoi, II, 8, p. 266, and Serp. Indochine, 1936, p. 310, fig. head (Tam-dao, Tong-King, Paris).

Maxillary teeth 11 or 12+2, anterior palatine teeth not strongly enlarged, 1 or 2 preoculars, reaching the upper surface of the head; temporals small, scale-like, 4+5 or 6. 9 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye, posterior genials as long as the anterior, separated from one another by small scales. Scales in 21, 21, 17 rows, the vertebrales scarcely enlarged. V. 240, C. 139, A. 2.

Light brown above, with a vertebral series of large, elongated dark brown, black-edged spots, and smaller and less distinct ones on the sides of the body, some of the vertebral spots are confluent with one another, thus forming a sinuous stripe, the scales of each spot are edged with black, belly whitish, marbled or clouded with brown, head light brown above, speckled with black; a round black spot on the middle of the nape.

Known only from the type-specimen, which is a male.

270 *Boiga multifasciata*.

HIMALAYAN CAT SNAKE

Dipsas multifasciata Blyth, 1861, J A S Bengal, xxx, p 114 (Subathu, Simla originally in Calcutta), Günther, Rept. Brit Ind 1864, p 313, Stoliczka, J A S Bengal, xxxix, 1870, p 199, pl xi, fig 6, and xl, 1871, p 440—*Dipsadomorphus multifasciatus*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 69, Wall, Rec Ind Mus, i, 1907, p 157, and J Bombay N H S xix, 1909, p 352, and xxvi, 1919, p 866, and xxx, 1924, pl 871, Shaw & Shebb, J Darjeeling N H Soc. iv, 1930, p 56, Shaw, Shebb & Barker, J Bengal N H Soc xv, 1940, p 65

Maxillary teeth 10 or 11+2, anterior palatine teeth not strongly enlarged, 1, sometimes 2, preoculars, reaching the upper surface of the head, temporals 1+2 or 2+3, posterior genials as long as the anterior, usually in contact with one another Scales in 21 21 15 rows, vertebrae not strongly enlarged V 223-250, C 100-115

Hemipenis not known

Greyish brown above, finely speckled with black, and with narrow, black, transverse or oblique bars, these may meet one another on the vertebral line, forming A-shaped marks, in the apex of which there is a more or less distinct white spot, a black longitudinal stripe on the nape and two more on the top of the head; another from the eye to the angle of the mouth, lower parts whitish, thickly spotted and speckled with black

Total length ♀ 880, tail 185 mm

Range The Himalayas, Western Himalayas (Subathu, Mussooree, Naini Tal, Muktesar), Eastern Himalayas (Nepal, Darjeeling district)

Found generally above 5,000 feet altitude

271 *Boiga cynodon*.

Dipsas cynodon Boie, 1827, Isis, p 549 (Sumatra), Schlegel, Phys Serp 1837, ii, p 268, pl xi, figs 10 & 11—*Dipsadomorphus cynodon*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 78, Wall, J Bombay N H S xix, 1909-1910, pp 353, 832, & 899.—*Boiga cynodon*, Wall, ibid xxx, 1924, p 874, and xxx, 1925, p 818

Maxillary teeth 11 or 12+2, anterior palatine teeth strongly enlarged, 1 preocular reaching the upper surface of the head temporals 2+3 or 3+3, 8 or 9 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th, or 4th, 5th and 6th touching the eye, posterior genials larger than the anterior, in contact with one another anteriorly, often abruptly diverging posteriorly and separated by small scales Scales in 23, rarely 25 23, rarely 25 15 rows, vertebrae strongly or very strongly, enlarged. V 250-282, with an obtuse lateral keel, C 120-157 (for specimens from the Indo-Chinese region)

Hemipenis extending to the 17th caudal plate, the distal $\frac{1}{2}$ is calyculate, the cups being large, longer than broad, with scalloped but not spinose edges, the remainder of the organ has smooth longitudinal folds the two areas are sharply defined from one another

Brownish, greyish or pinkish above, with dark brown or black, chevron-shaped spots, very distinct anteriorly, but which may become indistinct or disappear entirely, posteriorly, white spots or cross-bars sometimes present, best marked on the posterior part of the body, a series of large white (pink in life), dark-edged, rounded or rosette-shaped spots on the outer margins of the ventrals and usually including scale-rows 1 and 2, nape with two longitudinal, parallel, black stripes, another from the eye to the angle of the mouth, yellowish or greyish below, more or less thickly powdered with brown or black. Some individuals are very pale in colour with the dark markings hardly distinguishable

Total length ♂ 1440, tail 330. ♀ 1680, tail 370 mm

Larger specimens have been recorded from the Malayan region, they also differ in coloration (Form B of Boulenger, Cat iii, p 79)

Range Bengal (Jalpaiguri), Assam (Garo and Naga Hills, Samaguting, Cachar, Nahar Khatiya), Burma, as far north as lat 26° (Myitkyina), Siam, Cambodia, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago

B. cynodon is a snake of the plains and of the hill country at low altitudes. It is sluggish in its disposition, those that I have kept could be freely handled, even when newly caught. Its main food appears to be birds and their eggs

272 *Boiga forsteni*.

Triglyphodon forsteni Dum & Bib 1854, Erp Gen vii, p 1077 (type loc unknown) — *Dipsas forsteni*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 309, Anderson, P Z S 1871, p 187, Stoliczka, J A S Bengal, xi, 1871, p 439, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 362 — *Dipsadomorphus forsteni*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 80, Wall, J Bombay N H S xix, 1909, p 757, and xxvi, 1919, p 571 — *Boiga forsteni*, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 285, and J Bombay N H S xxix, 1924, p 874

Dipsas forsteni var *ceylonensis* Anderson, 1871, P Z S p 187 (Ceylon)

Triglyphodon tessellatum Dum & Bib 1854, Erp Gen vii, p 1082 ("Java", Paris)

Maxillary teeth 10 to 12+2, anterior palatine teeth strongly enlarged, diameter of the eye not twice its distance from the mouth, 1 preocular, reaching the upper surface of the head, temporals small, 3+3 or 3+4, 8 to 11 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th, or 4th, 5th and 6th touching the eye, genials variable in size, the posterior pair generally

separated from one another by small scales Scales in 25 or 27.27 or 29.17 rows, vertebrals feebly or strongly enlarged, the enlargement very variable, even in the same individual V 254-273, with a distinct lateral keel, C 102-119

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, as in *cynodon*, but the folds crenate

Brown or reddish above, uniform, or with more or less regular, angular black spots or cross-bars, with white spots between them; these are most distinct on the anterior part of the body, and posteriorly may be replaced by a chequered pattern, a black stripe on the head from the frontal shield to the nape, and two more on the nape parallel with it, a broad black stripe from the eye to the angle of the mouth labials with black spots or sutures (in those specimens which have dark markings on the body), belly uniform whitish (in those specimens which are of uniform colour above) or heavily spotted or powdered with brown, the lateral keel usually white

Total length ♂ 1800, tail 340, ♀ 1600, tail 340 mm (2312 mm, Wall)

Range Ceylon and Peninsular India, Western Ghats (Matheran to Travancore), Ganges Valley (Orcha, Fyzabad, Gorakhpur, Balrampur, Purnea, Manbhum), Orissa (Berhampore), Bengal (Sijna), Eastern Himalayas (Darjeeling district, *fide* Wall) It inhabits both the plains and the hills

Wall (1921), writing of its habits, states —“ Visiting the Maharajah of Balrampur some years ago, I found some very fine specimens displayed by his professional snake catchers, who assured me that they lived in pairs, and frequented holes in the *mohwa* trees (*Bassia latifolia*), in which they were quite common It has been described to me as a fierce snake, and what I saw amply confirmed this

Mr N Warde tells me that it is a voracious poultry eater, and also robs pigeon houses One invaded one of his servants' quarters at night

and when he advanced into the room, found the snake swallowing a white fowl, and it continued to swallow with apparent unconcern, in spite of the assembled spectators A specimen brought to me in Orissa had fed on a large bat One in captivity ate freely the lizards *Calotes versicolor* and sparrows, and on one occasion a mouse The Balrampur snake-men told me it lays from 7 to 9 eggs in the hot weather ”

273 *Boiga dightoni*.

Dipsas dightoni Boulenger, 1894, J. Bombay N H S viii, p 528, pl — (Pirmad, Travancore State, London), Ferguson, *ibid.* x, 1895, p 73 — *Dipsadomorphus dightoni*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 69; Annandale, J. A. S Bengal, lxxiii, 1904, p 210, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xxx, 1924, p 872

Maxillary teeth 14+2, anterior palatine teeth strongly

enlarged, 1 preocular, reaching the upper surface of the head, temporals 3+3 Scales in 23 23·15 rows, vertebrals strongly enlarged V 228-241, with a feebly distinct lateral keel, C 95-102

Hemipenis not known

"Pale reddish brown above, without dark markings, a series of salmon-red blotches along the back. Head pale brown, with minute blackish dots, lower parts yellowish, finely dotted with brown, the outer ends of the ventrals salmon pink" (Boulenger)

Only three specimens are known

Total length ♂ 1100, tail 220 mm.

Range Travancore (Pirmed).

Genus **TARBOPHIS.**

Tarbophis Fleischmann, 1831, Diss Dalmat Serp p 17 (type *fallax*), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 47, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1924, p 868, Werner, Arch Naturg Berlin, 1924, p 115

Maxillary teeth 8 to 12, anterior longest, gradually decreasing in size posteriorly, and followed by a pair of enlarged, grooved fangs, situated just behind the level of the posterior margin of the eye; head very distinct from neck, eye rather large with vertical pupil. Body cylindrical or slightly compressed, scales smooth, oblique, with apical pits, in 19 to 23 rows, ventrals rounded; tail moderate, subcaudals paired Hypapophyses absent on the posterior dorsal vertebrae

Range S E Europe, S W Asia, Tropical and N E Africa

Seven species are known, one enters the Indian region

274 *Tarbophis rhinopoma*.

Dipsas rhinopoma Blanford, 1874, Ann Mag Nat Hist (4) xiv, p 34 (Karman, S Persia, London & Calcutta), and Zool E Persia, 1876, p 424, pl xxviii, fig 2—*Tarbophis rhinopoma*, Boulenger, J Bombay N H S ix, 1895, p 325, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 50, Ingoldby, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 127, Wall, ibid xxix, 1924, p 868

Dipsadomorphus jollyi Wall, 1914, J. Bombay N H S xxiii, p 167 (Kacha Tana, Baluchistan type lost)

Head much depressed, maxillary teeth 8+2, nostril in a large, partially divided nasal, internasals as broad as long, much narrowed anteriorly, much smaller than the prefrontals, frontal as broad as long; loreal elongate, touching the eye, a preocular above it, in contact with the frontal, 2 postoculars, 9 or 10 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th, or 4th, 5th and 6th touching the eye, temporals small, scale-like, 2+3 or 3+4, posterior genials much smaller than the anterior, separated from one another by small scales Scales

in 23 23 (or 22 or 24) : 17 rows V 266-280, C 77-84 (99 Wall), A 1

Hemipenis extending to the 9th caudal plate, not forked; the anterior $\frac{1}{3}$ is calyculate, the cups being deeply scalloped, and longer than broad, the remainder of the organ is spinose, the spines, except at the tip, being enclosed in a triangular sheath, there are 18 in longitudinal series

Pale greyish above, with a vertebral series of large, dark brown, squarish spots, much broader than their interspaces, and a series of alternating, smaller, less clearly defined spots on the sides of the body, posteriorly the vertebral spots may



Fig 113 —Maxilla of *Tarbophis rhinopoma*

divide into two series, belly dark brown Head with small dark spots, labials dark-edged, throat white

Blanford's description of the coloration of the type, a fully grown specimen, when alive, is as follows —“Pale sandy brown, with numerous, irregular, pale, waved transverse bands, much narrower than their intervening dark spaces, and more distinct near the head than farther back, all the scales more or less minutely punctulated with black, ventral scales dusky, with sandy mottling Head sandy above, with minute, irregular, black spots”

Total length: ♂ 990, tail 160 mm

Range Sind, Baluchistan (Kacha Thana, Miranshah; Tochi Valley); Persia.

Genus PSAMMOPHIS.

SAND SNAKES

Macrosoma (not of Hubner, 1818), Leach, 1819, in Bowdich's Miss Ashantee, App 4, p 493 (type *elegans*)

Psammophis Fitzinger, 1826, Neue Class Rept pp 29, 30 (type *nilans*); Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 365, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p. 152, and P Z S 1895, p 538, Werner, Arch Nat Ges Berlin, A 12, 1924, p 138

Taphrometopon Brandt, 1838, Bull Acad Sci St Petersburg iii, p 243 (type *lineolatus*)

Amphiphis Bocage, 1872, J Sc Lisboa, iv, p 81 (type *angolensis*).

Mike Werner, 1924, Sitz Ber Akad Wiss Wien, Bd 133, p 51 (type *elegantissimus* = *condanarus*); Smith, Ann Mag Nat Hist (10) 1, 1928, p 495

Maxillary teeth 10 to 13, one or two in the middle more or less enlarged, fang-like, preceded and (or) followed by an

interspace, the last two much enlarged, grooved and directed strongly backwards, situated below the posterior border of the eye, anterior mandibular teeth strongly enlarged. Head distinct from neck, with angular canthus rostralis, eye moderate or large, with round pupil, body cylindrical, scales smooth, more or less oblique, in 17 rows for all species in the Oriental region, ventrals rounded, tail long, subcaudals paired. Hypapophyses absent on the posterior dorsal vertebræ.

Common characters, unless otherwise stated.—Eye large, its diameter much greater than its distance from the mouth, nostril between two nasals, rostral broader than high, visible from above, loreal region concave, loreal shield elongate, twice as long as high. 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, genials subequal or the anterior pair longer, in contact with one another. Scales in 17, 17, 15 or 13 rows.

The distinction between *Psammophis* and *Taphrometopon* rests upon the character of the maxillary teeth, through *P. leithi* the two are connected.

As already observed by Boulenger (Cat. III, p. 152), the skull of *Psammophis* is remarkable for the wide vacuity between



Fig. 114.—Maxilla of *Psammophis lineolatus*

the parietal, frontal and sphenoid bones, a condition which approaches that of the Lacertilia, in front the frontal descends to join the sphenoid. A similar vacuity occurs in *Haplopeltura*.

The hemipenis is long and extremely slender, so slender that I have been unable to make a proper examination of it from the material at my disposal. It has neither spines nor calyces but is provided with longitudinal folds. It does not differ in the five species dealt with in this work. Writing of *condanarius*, Wall (1911, p. 629) states. "The male claspers I found peculiar, differing from these organs in other snakes in that when forcibly extruded by digital pressure behind the vent, they were directed downwards instead of forwards. They are thin, long and spirally twisted, reminding me of a buck's horn. They are entirely lacking in asperities or tentacles such as one usually sees on these organs in other snakes. The secretion from the anal glands in both sexes is greenish-yellow."

Psammophis taeniata Gunther, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (3) ix, 1862, p. 293, is not sufficiently characterized to be identifiable, and there are no specimens in the British Museum bearing that label. It was said to have come from India.

Key to the Species

I Anal divided

A Frontal distinctly longer than its distance from the end of the snout

a Anterior end of frontal twice as broad as the middle, nasal completely divided

Median maxillary teeth strongly enlarged *schokari*, p 363Median maxillary teeth feebly enlarged *lineolatus*, p 367

b Anterior end of frontal not twice as broad as the middle, nasal incompletely divided

... *condanarus*, p 364

B Frontal not longer than its distance from the end of the snout; preocular not in contact with the frontal

longifrons, p 363

II Anal undivided

Preocular in contact with frontal, 1 anterior temporal

leuth, p 366275 *Psammophis schokari* *.

Coluberschokari Forskål, 1775, *Deser Anim* p 14 (Yemen, S Arabia) — *Psammophis schokari*, Boulenger, *Cat Sn Brit Mus* iii, 1896, p 157, Wall, *J Bombay N H S* xx, 1911, p 1038 (in part), and xxx, 1924, p 875, Ingoldby, *ibid* xxx, 1923, p 129

Psammophis sindanus Stoliczka, 1872, *Pr A S Bengal*, p 83 (Katch and Sind)

The above synonymy refers only to specimens from the Indian Region

Maxillary teeth 13 or 14, two in the middle very strongly enlarged and preceded and followed by a distinct interval Internasals $\frac{1}{2}$ — $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the prefrontals, frontal long and narrow, much longer than its distance from the end of the snout, suddenly enlarging anteriorly where it is twice as broad as in the middle, in contact with the preocular, temporals 2+2, 8 or 9 supralabials, 4th and 5th, or 5th and 6th, touching the eye V 164–187, C 121–134, A 2 (for specimens from India and the adjacent territory)

Colour very variable Yellowish, buff or greyish above, with four dark brown longitudinal stripes, the median pair on either side of the vertebral line, the lateral pair on scales 1–3 they are bordered on each side with black, or with a series of elongated black spots head with dark brown symmetrical markings, a dark stripe along the side of the head through the eye yellowish below with a black line along the outer side of the ventrals, and with or without a median speckling or a series of paired spots

The variations occur through loss of colour-pattern, the dark brown stripes disappearing to leave only the black spots

* Loveridge, in a paper on the African species of *Psammophis* (*Bull Mus Comp Zool Harvard*, lxxvii, 1940) regards *schokari* as a race of *sibilans*

which edge them, or these may also be lost, the snake then being of a uniform grey colour above, yellowish below

Total length ♂ 1280, tail 460 mm

Range Rajputana (Jodhpur), Punjab (Lahore), Kashmir (Chilas), N W F Provinces (Waziristan, Tochi Valley), Baluchistan, Sind; and westwards through Persia and Arabia to North Africa

276 *Psammophis condanarus*.

Coluber condanarus Merrem, 1820, Tent Syst Amph p 107 (based on Russell, 1, p 32, pl 27, Ganjam dist) — *Psammophis condanarus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 365, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 165, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 291, Stoliczka, J A S Bengal, xxxix, 1870, p 196, Theobald, Rept Brit Ind 1876, p 187, Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1907, p 121, and xx, 1911, p 626, col pl, and xxxix, 1924, p 876, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, 1, 1914, p. 17, photo *Leptophis bellii* Jerdon, 1853, J A S Bengal, xxii, p 529, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 291 (Jalna, Hyderabad) *Psammophis indicus* Beddome, 1863, Madras Quart J Med Sc vi, p 45 (Kurnool Dist), and J Soc Bibl Nat Hist 1, 1940, p 310 [reprint]

Maxillary teeth 12 or 13, 2 in the middle enlarged, with a distinct interval in front, but not always behind, upper head shields not protuberant, nasal incompletely divided, a suture only from the nostril to the labial, internasals $\frac{2}{3}$ as long as the prefrontals, or not quite so much, frontal long and narrow, much longer than its distance from the end of the snout, the anterior end not suddenly enlarged, not greatly broader there than in the middle, not in contact with the preocular, temporals 1+2, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, anal divided

Pale olive or buff above, with 4 or 5 dark brown longitudinal stripes, more or less conspicuously edged with black, head brown, with more or less distinct longitudinal markings, the continuation forwards of the stripes upon the body, lower parts yellow or yellowish white, with a black line along each side at the outer margin of the ventral shields

Total length ♀ 1075, tail 250 Males are smaller

Two races can be defined —

I *Psammophis condanarus condanarus*

This form has usually 5 dark stripes, a vertebral, a dorso-lateral pair and a lateral pair, the vertebral may be absent, the dorso-lateral pair is upon scale-rows 5, 6 and 7 A juvenile in the Bombay collection from Berar is brown above with a broad black vertebral stripe occupying 5 scale-rows V 165-179, C ♂ 85-93, ♀ 75-85

Range Cutch, Sind, Punjab, Central India (Poona, Jalna, Kurnal, Berar), U P, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal as far east as long 86°

II *Psammophis condanarus indochinensis*, ssp. nov

The Indo-Chinese form has 4 stripes only, the vertebral is never present, and the position of the dorso-lateral stripe is upon scale-rows 6, 7 and 8. This form also is subject to greater variation in coloration than the Indian one. The median pair of stripes may be united to form a single broad one, or the stripes may be almost absent, the snakes then being almost uniform brown in coloration above. V 156-173, C ♂ 75-85 ♀ 66-75.

Range Indo-China south of lat 21° (Taunggyi, Pegu, Lophuri, Bangkok, Phan-rang in Annam).

It will be noted that the range of the two forms is not conterminous, there being a large area of country through eastern Bengal, Assam and Upper Burma where no specimens have yet been obtained.

Wall states that it is a common snake in the United Provinces, and in the Western Himalayas at between 3,000-6,000 feet altitude. It appears to be not uncommon in the Pegu district, and there used to be a small colony of them on the outskirts of Bangkok.

In disposition it is shy, it is extremely active in its movements, and is fond of ascending low bushes. Its food consists of small rodents, lizards and frogs. Those that I kept in captivity refused all food.

277 *Psammophis longifrons*.

Psammophis longifrons Boulenger, 1896, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, p 165 (? Cuddapah Hills, Madras Pres., London), Dreckmann, J Bombay N H S vii, 1892, p 406, Gleadow, *ibid* viii, 1894, p 563, D'Abreu, *ibid* xxii, 1913, p. 634; Wall, *ibid* xxix, 1924, p 875.

Maxillary teeth 12 or 13, 2 in the middle very strongly enlarged, and preceded and followed by a distinct interval, internasals small, $\frac{1}{2}$ or less than $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the prefrontals, frontal long and narrow, not longer than its distance from the end of the snout, the anterior end not suddenly enlarged, not greatly broader there than in the middle, not in contact with the preocular, temporals 2+2, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye. V. 166-175, C 79-93, A 2.

Greyish above in front, browner behind, the scales edged with black, particularly those of the vertebral region; top of head uniform greyish brown, or the scales edged with black, greyish or yellowish white below.

Total length 1230, tail 375 mm (*vide* Dreckmann).

Of considerably stouter build than the other Indian members of this genus.

Range Bombay Presidency north of lat 19° (Thana and Damanganga districts, Bulsar, Panch Mahals), C P (Nagpur).

Known only from a few specimens The type locality, Cud-dapah Hills, is probably incorrect

D'Abreu records finding six Scinks in the stomach of his specimen

Its habits are both terrestrial and arboreal.

278 *Psammophis leithi*.

Psammophis leithi Günther, 1869, P Z S p 505, pl. 39 (Sind, London), Stoliczka, P A S Bengal, 1872, p 83, Boulenger, F.B I 1890, p 365 (in part), and Cat Sn Brit Mus m, 1896, p 155, Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1907, pp 120 & 203, and xx, 1911, p 1039, and xxix, 1924, p 875, Ingoldby, ibid xxix, 1923, p 129

Maxillary teeth 11 or 12, the median ones feebly enlarged, an edentulous space before or after, sometimes both Posterior

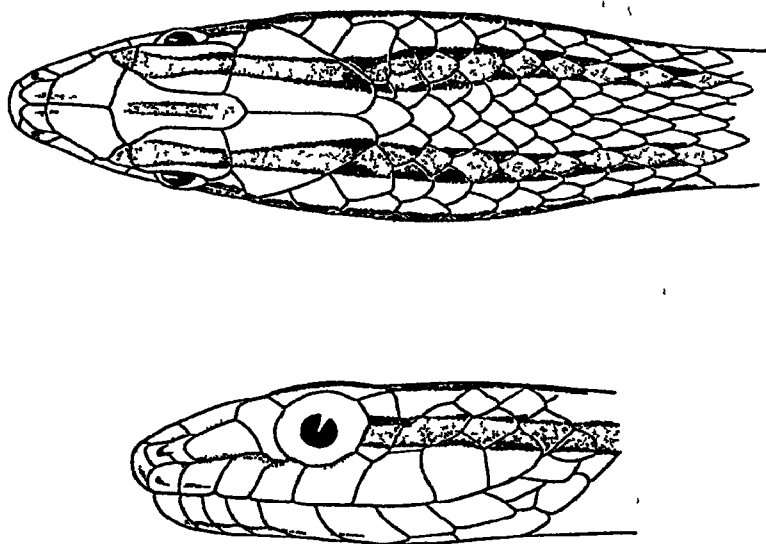


Fig 115 — *Psammophis leithi* (B M 91 915)

nasal sometimes divided by a longitudinal suture, internasals $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ as long as the prefrontals, frontal long and narrow, much longer than its distance from the end of the snout, suddenly enlarged anteriorly, where it is nearly twice as broad as in the middle, in contact with the preocular, temporals 1+2, 8 supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 5 infralabials in contact with the anterior genials V ♂ 159-175, ♀ 170-185, C ♂ & ♀ 92-100, A 1

Light yellowish brown above, with four dark brown longitudinal stripes, the median pair, on either side of the vertebral

line, conspicuous and bordered on each side with black spots, which may be continuous with one another, on the head they extend forward as far as the eyes, the outer pair, on scale-rows 1 and 2, are less conspicuous and often absent, they extend forwards on each side of the head to the nostrils, usually a dark median longitudinal stripe on the top of the head, yellowish white below, uniform.

Total length ♀ 765, tail 235 mm

Range Baluchistan (Munro Khalat) Sind, Cutch; Western India, Bombay Presidency (Poona), Rajputana, U P (Fyzabad), Punjab, N W Frontier Province (Thal, Kaur Bridge), Kashmir (Chilas)

279 *Psammophis lineolatus*.

Coluber (Taphrometopon) lineolatus Brandt, 1836, Bull Acad Sci St Petersburg iii, p 243 (Transcaspia)—*Taphrometopon lineolatum*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 151; Alcock & Finn, J A S Bengal, lxxv, 1896, p 563, Annandale, ibid. lxxii, 1904, p 210, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, p 193, Tsarewsky, Ann Mus Zool Leningrad, xxii, 1917, p 89, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxxix, 1924, p 875, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 321, pl xiv

Psammophis triticeus Wall, 1912, J Bombay N H S xxi, p 634 (Baluchistan)

Maxillary teeth 13 or 14, the median ones feebly enlarged, an edentulous space in front, but not behind. Supraocular shield and canthus rostralis protuberant, internasals $\frac{2}{3}$ as long as the prefrontals, frontal long and narrow, much longer than its distance from the end of the snout, suddenly enlarged anteriorly, where it is nearly twice as broad as in the middle, in contact with the preocular: temporals 2+2; 9 supralabials, 4th to 6th touching the eye. V. 174-186, C 72-90, A 2 (for specimens from Baluchistan and Afghanistan)

Light yellowish brown above, with four dark brown longitudinal stripes the median pair, on scale-rows 5 to 7, conspicuous, and spotted or bordered with black. on the head they extend forward to the eyes the outer pair, on scale-rows 1 to 3, usually less conspicuous, on the head they extend forward to the nostrils, upper part of head with dark longitudinal markings, below yellowish white, with or without a median stippling, and a linear spot at the outer side of each ventral, chin with dark longitudinal markings

Total length 870, tail 190 mm

Range Baluchistan (Quetta, Marachak, Chaman, Balesh) and westward through Persia, Afghanistan and Turkestan to the Aral-Caspian region, thence through Mongolia to N W China

Genus **PSAMMODYNASTES.**

Psammodynastes Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p 140 (type *Psammophis pulverulentus* Boie), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 363, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 172
Anisodon Rosen, 1905, Ann Mag Nat Hist (7) xv, p 176 (type *lilljeborgi*)

Maxillary teeth 10 to 12, 2 or 3 small anterior teeth, followed by 2 much enlarged, fang-like ones, then after a small interval, 5 small teeth followed by 2 very large grooved fangs, head distinct from neck, with angular canthus rostralis and concave lores, eye rather large, with vertically elliptic pupil, body cylindrical, scales smooth, without pits, in 17 17 15 rows, ventrals rounded, tail moderate, subcaudals paired Hypapophyses present on the posterior dorsal vertebræ

Two species are known, one inhabiting Indo-China and the Malayan region, the other, *P pictus*, Borneo and Sumatra

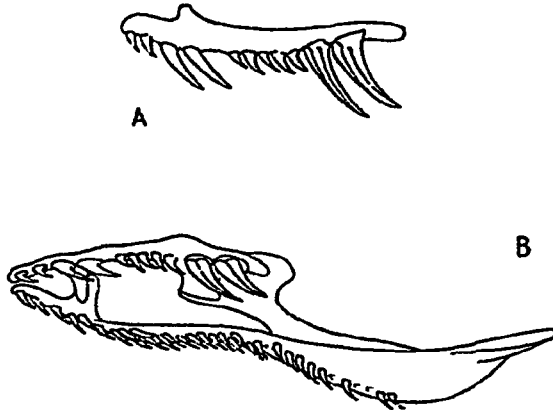


Fig 116 —A Maxilla and B Palato-maxillary arch of *Psammodynastes pulverulentus*

280 **Psammodynastes pulverulentus.**

MOCK VIPER

Psammophis pulverulentus Boie, 1827, Isis, p 547 (Java) —*Psammodynastes pulverulentus*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 363, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 172, Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1907, pp 204 and 330, and xx, 1910, p 72, col pl, and xxi, 1912, p 686, and xxix, 1924, p 875, and xxx, 1925, p 818, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 324, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 326, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 484, Shaw & others, J Bengal N H S xvi, 1941, p 57.
Dipsas ferruginea Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 63 (Assam, sketch in Bodleian Library)
Lycodon bairdi Steindachner, 1867, Reise Novara, Rept p 90 (Philippines Vienna)
Anisodon lilljeborgi Rosen, 1905, Ann Mag Nat Hist (7) xv, p 176 (Java, Lund)

Snout short, truncate in profile, slightly turned up in the

adult; nostril in a single nasal; rostral a little broader than high, internasals much smaller than the prefrontals; frontal narrow, elongate, more or less bell-shaped, longer than its distance from the end of the snout, loreal about as long as high, sometimes transversely divided, 1 or 2 pre-

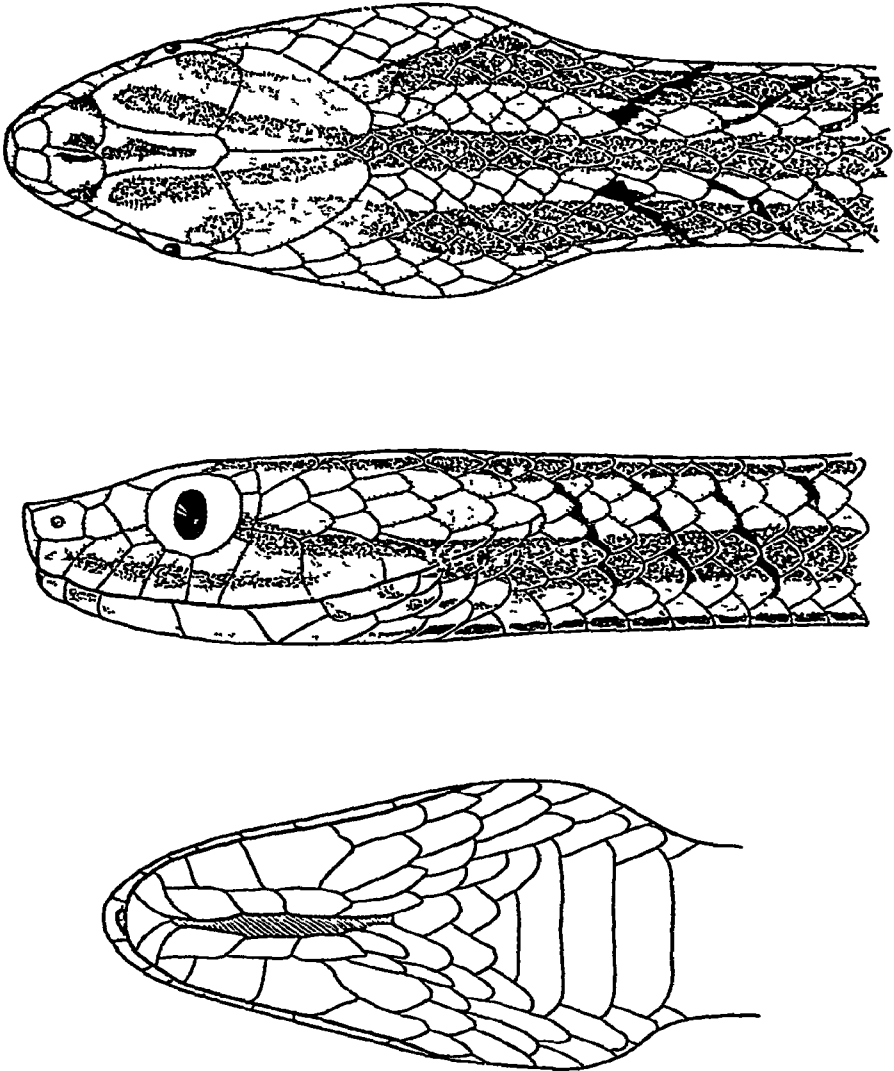


Fig 117 — *Psammodynastes pulverulentus*

oculars, the upper forming part of the canthus rostralis, widely separated from the frontal; 2 to 4 postoculars, temporals 2+3, rarely 2+2; usually 8 supralabials, 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 4th infralabial, very large, 3 pairs of genials, the anterior pair broadest V. 146-175, C 44-71; A 1

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, forked opposite the 6th, it is entirely spinose, the spines being nearly uniform in size, with the exception of two large, thick, basal ones on either side of the sulcus, proximal to the point of forking the spines show no definite arrangement, but opposite and distal to that point they are set in oblique rows that join on a line opposite the sulcus; the spines of each row are joined basally by soft tissue, the sulcus is divided some distance proximal to the point of forking and has fairly prominent, smooth lips, which are almost entirely devoid of spines throughout (Pope)

Colour very variable. Light or dark brown or blackish, reddish, greyish or yellowish above, with small black spots or streaks, sometimes arranged in pairs, sometimes a series of pink or orange spots on either side of the vertebral line, flanks usually with three closely-set longitudinal lines, or with yellow spots, lower parts thickly powdered with brown or grey and with dark spots or longitudinal lines, head with dark symmetrical markings.

Total length ♀ 510, tail 90 mm (600 mm, Wall)

Range The whole of the Indo-Chinese subregion from the Eastern Himalayas, as far west as Nepal, to Southern China, Hainan, and south to the Malay Archipelago

Found in the plains and in the hills. Fairly common in many places in wooded country, particularly in hilly districts

A plucky and vicious little snake, striking fiercely at anyone who attempts to handle it. Frogs and lizards form its main diet. The young are born alive, from 3 to 10 being produced at a time. Shaw (1941) saw one strike a *Natrix subminiata* which died in 16 minutes

Genus DRYOPHIS.

WHIP SNAKES.

Dryinus (not of Latreille, 1804), Merrem, 1820, Syst Amphib p 136

Dryophis Dalman, 1823, Analect Entomol p 7 (subst name for

Dryinus, type *Col nasutus* Merrem, by Boie, Isis, 1827, p 519),

Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 367, and Cat Sn Brit Mus. iii,

1896, p 177, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1924, p 876

Passeria Gray, 1825, Ann Phil (n s) x, p 208 (subst name for

Dryinus, type *mycterizans*).

Tragops Wagler, 1830, Nat Syst. Amphib. p 184 (type *prasinus*);

Günther, Rept Brit. Ind 1864, p 302

Herpetotragus Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept p 27 (type *nasuta*)

Dystyches Gistel, 1848, Naturg Thierr xi (subst for *Tragops*)

Wagler)

Tropidococcyx Günther, 1860, Ann. Mag. Nat Hist 6 (3) p 428

(type *perroteti*)

Gephyrinus Cope, 1886, Proc Amer Phil Soc xxiii, p 492 (type *fronticinctus*)

Ahetulla, Meise & Hennig, Zool Anz Leipzig, xcix, 11/12, 1932, p 296; Stejneger, Copeia, 1933, p 203

Maxillary teeth 12 to 15, the anterior 6 or 7 gradually

enlarged from before backwards or the last two suddenly enlarged, followed by an interspace, after which the teeth are small, 1 or 2 posterior grooved fangs, situated below the posterior border of the eye, ectopterygoid more or less distinctly forked anteriorly (fig 118) the two branches articulating with the maxilla, head elongate, distinct from neck, with strong canthus rostralis and concave lores, eye large, transversely oval, with horizontal pupil, nostril in the posterior part of an elongated nasal, frontal narrow, elongate, more or less bell-shaped Body very elongate and compressed, scales smooth, in 15 15·13 rows disposed obliquely, the vertebral row slightly enlarged; ventrals rounded or with an obtuse lateral keel, tail long, subcaudals paired Hypapophyses absent on the posterior dorsal vertebræ.

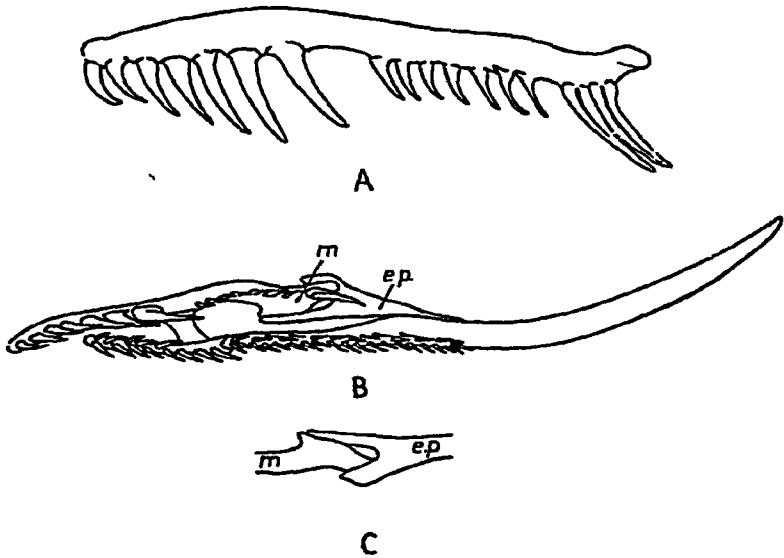


Fig 118—A Maxilla B Palato-maxillary arch. C Articulation of maxilla (m) and ectopterygoid, (ep) of *Dryophis nasutus*

The following account of the hemipenis will serve for all the species The organ is short and is not forked, the distal end is calyculate, the cups having scalloped edges, this area merges gradually into a spinose one, at the end of which there are a few enormous spines; proximal to the spines, there are longitudinal folds

Range The Oriental Region; Celebes and the Philippines. Of the 8 species known, 7 are included in this work.

A genus of Tree-Snakes, living chiefly on bushes and shrubs, through which they can move with ease and great rapidity; in search of food, they often descend to the ground. As far as is known, all of them produce living young.

The absence of a strongly marked lateral ventral keel in a genus which is essentially arboreal in its habits, is unusual. It is noteworthy also that in many of the species, although

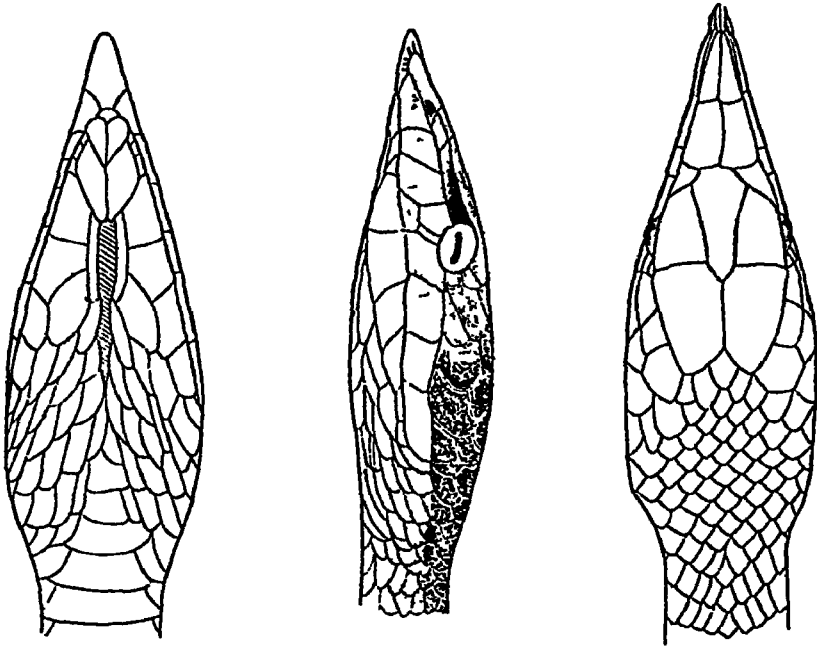


Fig 119—*Dryophis nasutus*

no keel or almost no keel is evident, its position is indicated by a white line

Key to the Species.

- I Snout without dermal appendage, projecting feebly beyond the lower jaw
 - A. Snout not twice as long as the eye, prefrontals not twice as long as broad
 - No loreal, 1 postocular, C 65-86
 - 1 or 2 loreals; 2 postoculars, 1 or 2 presuboculars, C 84-119
 - B Snout at least twice as long as the eye, prefrontals at least twice as long as broad
 - Nasals usually in contact with one another above the rostral; 3rd and 4th labials horizontally divided; C. 115-148
 - Supralabials entire, V. 194-235, C 151-167, A 2
 - Supralabials entire, V 186-195, C 126-156, A 1
- II Snout ending in a pointed, dermal appendage, usually extending far beyond the lower jaw.
 - Dermal appendage formed usually only of the rostral, colour green
 - Dermal appendage covered with small scales, grey or brown with black spots

perroteti, p 373

dispar, p 373.

fronticinctus, p 374

prasinus, p 375.

mycterizans, p. 376

nasutus, p. 376.

pulverulentus, p. 378

281 *Dryophis perroteti*.

Psammophis perroteti Dum & Bib. 1854, Erp Gen vii, p 899 ('Indes Orientales', Paris) — *Dryophis perroteti*, Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 868, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1896, iii, p 178, Wall, J Bombay N H S xvii, 1906, p 7, fig., and xxvi, 1919, p 571, and xxx, 1924, p 876
Leptophis ? canarensis ? Jerdon, 1853, J A S Bengal, xxii, p 530 (North Canara)

Snout obtusely acuminate, without dorsal appendage, not twice as long as the eye, no loreal, the internasals and prefrontals touching the labials, 1 preocular, in contact with the frontal, 1 postocular, temporals 1+2 or 2+2, 8, rarely 9, supralabials, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 4th sometimes horizontally divided, anterior pair of genials as long as the posterior. Scales on the sacral region keeled, strongly in the male, feebly in the female V 136-146, C ♂ 65-75, ♀ 71-86, A 2

Bright green above, the interstitial skin black and white forming oblique lines, sometimes all black, yellowish white or pale greenish below; a white line along the outer edge of the ventrals, edged inside with green, top of head often bronze, lips paler. A specimen from the Nilgiris is olive-brown above.

Total length ♀ 545, tail 135 mm. (590, Wall)

Range. The Western Ghats (Nilgiri Hills, North Canara). Common in the Nilgiris at about 5,000 feet altitude.

Wall (1919) records 9 gravid females taken in the Nilgiris between July and the beginning of September. Their eggs numbered from 2 to 10, and the embryo in some was partly developed.

282 *Dryophis dispar*.

Tragops dispar Günther, 1864, Rept Brit. Ind. p. 303, pl 23, fig A (Anamalai Hills, London) — *Dryophis dispar*, Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 368, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 179; Fisher, J Bombay N. H S xxiv, 1915, p 194, Wall, *ibid.* xvii, 1906, p 7, fig., and xxx, 1924, p 877

Snout acuminate, without dermal appendage, not twice as long as the eye, internasals, and sometimes the prefrontals, touching the labials; 1 or 2 small loreals, rarely absent altogether, 1 preocular, in contact with the frontal, 2 postoculars; 8 supralabials, 4th divided, forming 1 or 2 presuboculars, 5th touching the eye, temporals 2+2 or 2+3; anterior genials as long as, or a little shorter, than the posterior. Scales on the sacral region smooth, or feebly keeled V 136-156, C 84-119, A 2

Bright green or bronzy olive above, the interstitial skin black and white forming oblique lines, sometimes all black,

pale green or olive below, a white or yellow line along the outer margin of the ventrals

Total length ♀ 725, tail 240 mm

Range The Western Ghats (Nilgiri Hills to Travancore) Fisher's specimen was secured in the Anaimalai Hills at 8,000 feet altitude It contained four fully formed young

283 *Dryophis fronticinctus*.

Dryophis fronticinctus Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p 158 (type loc unknown London), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 368, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 179, Wall & Evans, J Bombay N H S xii, 1900, p 346, Wall, ibid xvii, 1906, p 7, fig, and xix, 1909, p 353, figs and pl, and xxxix, 1924, p 876, Shaw and others, J Bengal N H S xvi, 1941, p 61 — *Tragops fronticinctus*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 304, fig E (East Indies), Stoliczka, J A S Bengal, xxxix, 1870, p 197, Theobald, Cat Rept Brit Ind 1876, p 192

Snout acuminate, without dermal appendage, 2 to 2½ times as long as the eye, nasals usually in contact with one another in front of the internasals, nasals and prefrontals separated from the labials by two loreals, 1 preocular, touching or just separated from the prefrontal, 2 postoculars, rarely only 1, temporals 2+2 or 3+3, normally 7 supralabials, 1st and 2nd entire, 3rd and 4th subject to both horizontal and vertical division, 5th below the eye, anterior genials much shorter than the posterior, or the latter divided, forming three pairs in all. Scales of the sacral region keeled, more strongly in the male than in the female V 168-196, C ♂ 139-148, ♀ 115-136, A 2

Bright green, olive or bronze brown above, the interstitial skin black and white forming oblique lines, pale green or olive below, a white streak along the outer edge of the ventrals often margined inside with black, top of head with or without black dots

Total length ♀ 980, tail 310 mm

Range Lower Burma (Watiya, Rangoon and Pegu districts) Wall records a specimen from Assam (Sibsagar) and another from Darjeeling

"Abundant on the bushes which fringe the banks of many of the tidal rivers of Lower Burma, when attacked, they invariably take refuge in the water" (Stoliczka).

Wall (1924) comments on its curious distribution as follows: "It is significant that the Burmese species which Stoliczka (1870) reports a true brackish water species common about the mouth of the Moulmein River, and Theobald (1876) reports by no means scarce in the mangrove swamps on the Arakan coast, should not have been recorded anywhere in Burma except at the mouths of rivers, and should again be found far inland in Assam, and in the Darjeeling District."

284 *Dryophis prasinus*.

Coluber nasutus (not of Lacépède) Russell, 1801, Ind. Serp n, p 28, pl. 24 (Java) *.

Dryophis prasinus Boie, 1827, Isis, p 545 (Java), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 369, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 180; Wall, J Bombay N H S xvii, 1906, p 7, fig head, and xix, 1909-1910, pp 353 and 834, and xxx, 1924, p 877, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, iv, 1920, p 97, and Rec Ind Mus. xli, 1940, p 484; Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 330, and Bull Instr Pub Hanoi 1939, p 28; Shaw and others, J. Bengal N H S xvi, 1941, p. 62 — *Ahaetulla prasina*, Stejneger, Copeia, 1933, p 203, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p. 322, pl xiii

Dryophis prasinus flavescens Smith, 1915, J Bombay N H S xxii, p 785 (Trang, Pen Siam)

Dryophis prasinus indicus and *chinensis* Mell, Sitz Ber Ges. Nat Fr Berlin, 1930, p 323

Snout acuminate, without dermal appendage, 2 to $2\frac{1}{4}$ times as long as the eye, nasals in contact with the labials; prefrontals separated from them by 2 or 3 loreals, 1 preocular, in contact with the frontal, 2 postoculars, temporals usually 2+2 or 2+3, 9 supralabials, all entire, 4th, 5th and 6th touching the eye, anterior genuals much shorter than the posterior. Scales of the sacral region strongly keeled in the male, the keel often broken into tubercles and pigmented with black. V 194-235, C. ♂ 165-187, ♀ 151-172, A. 2, rarely 1 (for specimens from the Indo-Chinese region).

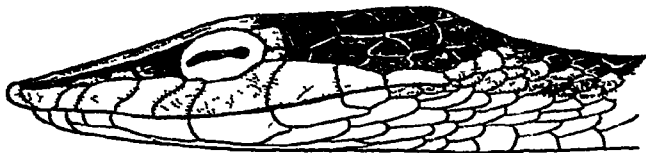


Fig 120 — *Dryophis prasinus* (B.M 97 5 21 59)

Green, grey, yellow, buff or cream above, the interstitial skin black and white, forming oblique lines, paler below; a white or yellow line along the outer margin of the ventrals, usually absent in specimens of pale coloration

Total length · ♂ 1580, tail 525; ♀ 1970, tail 670 mm. (both from Pulo Condore, South China Sea). Specimens from the mainland of Asia are somewhat smaller.

Range From Bengal (Jalpaiguri district) and the Eastern Himalayas (Sikkim) throughout the whole of the Indo-Chinese region as far north as the Triangle in Upper Burma, to the Malay Peninsula and the Indo-Australian Archipelago; Pulo Condore off the coast of Cochun China

* Russell, on p 28, quotes Shaw, despite the fact that Shaw's work is dated 1802

Common throughout the Indo-Chinese region, both in the hills at low altitudes and in the plains. Although I obtained it from nearly all parts of Siam, I never saw a specimen from Bangkok, where it was replaced by *nasutus*.

A very gentle snake, quite unafraid, and easily handled. Like *nasutus* it has the habit of putting its tongue out and keeping it out, almost motionless, for a considerable time.

I obtained a female in S E Siam on July 1st containing 6 young almost ready for expulsion. Their average length was 240 mm.

285 *Dryophis mycterizans*.

Coluber mycterizans Linn 1758, Syst Nat, ed 10, p 226 ("America"), Andersson, Bih Sven Vet Akad Stockholm, xxiv, 1898, 4, 6, p. 14.

Dryophis xanthozonia Boie, 1827, Isis, p 545 (Java), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 180, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 175 — *Passerita xanthozonia*, Smith, Bull Raffles Mus No 3, 1930, p 66.

Like *praspinus* but with the anal entire, fewer ventrals, 186–195, and fewer subcaudals, 132–156.

Green or greyish above, the interstitial skin black and white, whitish below, a white line along the outer margin of the ventrals, heavily edged inside with green or grey, sometimes also a median ventral line of the same colour, throat white.

Total length ♀ 1080, tail 410 mm. I have not seen a male.

Range A Malayan species that just enters the Indo-Chinese region. Robinson and Kloss obtained a specimen at Trang (Isthmus of Kra).

For the change in name see *D. nasutus*.

286 *Dryophis nasutus*.

COMMON GREEN WHIP SNAKE

Coluber nasutus Lacépède, 1789, Hist Nat Serp 1, p 100, and ii, p 277, pl 4, fig 2 (Ceylon, Guinea, Carolina) — *Dryophis nasutus*, Andersson, Bih Sven Vet Akad Stockholm, xxiv, 1898, 4, 6, p 15 — *Passerita nasuta*, Cochian, Proc US Nat Mus lxxvii, 1930, 11, p 32 — *Ahaetulla nasuta*, Stejneger, Copeia, 1933, p 203.

Coluber mycterizans (not of Linn), Russell, 1796, Ind Serp 1, pp 16, 18, pts 12, 13 (Vizagapatam) — *Dryophis mycterizans*, Boulenger, P B 1 1890, p 370, fig, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus iii, 1896, p 182, Funn, J A S Bengal, lxvii, 1898, p 66, Alcock & Rogers, Proc Roy Soc London, lxx, 1902, p 446, Kinnear, J Bombay N H S xvi, 1912, p 1336, Wall, ibid xvi, 1905, pp 308 and 542, col pl, and xxvi, 1909, p 572, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 291, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, 1, 1914, p 174, Prater, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1924, p 172, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 333, Cairns, J Bombay N H S xxvi, 1919, p 862, McCann, ibid xxxii, 1928, p 612, and xxxvii, 1934, p 226, Fraser ibid xxxix, 1937, p 484, Shaw and others, J Bengal N H S, xvi, 1941, p 63.

- Dryinus oxyrhynchus* Bell, 1825, Zool J n, p 326 (India)
Dryinus russellianus Bell, l c s p 327 (based on Russell's pl xiii)
Dryophis mycterizans anomalus Annandale, 1906, Mem A S Bengal, 1, p 196 (Ramanad, S. India)
Dryophis mycterizans tephrogaster Wall, 1908, J Bombay N H S. xviii, p 783, and *zephrogaster*, ibid xx, 1909, p 229 (Burma) — *D m cinereoventer* in vol xviii, p 919, is a slip for *tephrogaster*, see vol xix, p 269
Dryophis mycterizans rhodogaster Wall, 1908, J Bombay N H S xviii, p 919 (Schwebo, Upper Burma)
Dryophis mycterizans lepidorostralis Wall, 1910, J Bombay N H S. xx, p 229 (Bengal) = *D m anomalus*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xx, 1910, p 524
Dryophis mycterizans isabellinus Wall, 1910, J Bombay N H S xx, p 230 (Paralai near Valpari, Anamallai Hills)
Dryophis mycterizans rhodonotus Wall, 1921, Sn Ceylon, p 293 (Galatura Estate, Ceylon)

Snout acuminate, terminating in a pointed dermal appendage, variable in length, shorter than the eye, it has a median groove above, and is formed usually entirely by the rostral, rarely with small scales at the base, length of the snout without the dermal appendage $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 times that of the eye, no loreal, the internasals and prefrontals in contact with the labials, 1 large preocular, in contact with the frontal, 2 postoculars, temporals 1+2 or 2+2, normally 8 supralabials, 3rd and 4th, or one only, divided to form 1 or 2 presuboculars, 5th touching the eye, anterior pair of genials shorter than the posterior. V 166-207, C ♂ 156-180, ♀ 135-152, A 2

Verdant green above, the interstitial skin black and white, forming oblique lines, best marked on the anterior half of the body, pale green below, a white or yellow line along the outer margin of the ventrals, lips sometimes yellowish, throat white, sometimes bluish in life

This form of coloration is by far the most common, but there are many departures from it. Occasional individuals are yellowish, brown or buff above (*isabellinus*), the belly may be leaden-grey in colour (*tephrogaster*) or rose coloured (*rhodogaster*), or the whole snake may be coloured with shades of pink (*rhodonotus*)

Total length ♂ 1325, tail 530, ♀ 1940, tail 720 mm

Range Ceylon, Peninsular India, excluding the Ganges Valley west of Patna, B. & O (*fide* Wall), Bengal, the Indo-Chinese region as far south as Rangoon in Burma. Siam, Cambodia, Cochín-China. It has not been met with in the north-eastern plateau-land of Siam or in other parts of French Indo-China

Wall (1905 and 1921) has given excellent accounts of the habits of this snake. Like *prasimus* it is quite fearless and may be handled without difficulty. In my garden in Bangkok, where it was common, I often caught it and placed it among

the flowers on the table whilst we had a meal, there it would remain almost motionless, turning its head from side to side and watching us, but seldom attempting to escape. When handled it has a peculiar habit of watching one's face and suddenly making a dart at it, aiming usually for the eyes. Its food consists chiefly of lizards, small rodents and birds, but it has been known to eat snakes. McCann (1934) records a lizard (*Calotes*) being seized by one and held, struggling, until it was dead 25 minutes later, before being swallowed. Wall, quoting Green, in his 'Snakes of Ceylon,' p. 296, records the same habit and concludes "the snake never commences to swallow its prey until all signs of life have ceased." From 3 to 22 young are born at a time, and this may occur during any month between March and December.

It is unfortunate that the well-known name *mycterizans* must be transferred to another species, but, as shown by Andersson (1898), the snake which commonly bears this name is really Boie's *vanthozonia*.

287 *Dryophis pulverulentus*.

BROWN WHIP SNAKE

Dryinus pulverulentus Dum. & Bib. 1854, *Erp. Gen.* vii, p. 812 (no type loc. given), Jan, *Elenco Sist. Ophid.* 1863, p. 88, and *Icon. Gen. Ophid.* Liv. 32, pl. v, fig. 1 — *Dryophis pulverulentus*, Boulenger, *F. B. I.* 1890, p. 371, and *Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus.* iii, 1896, p. 184, Wall, *J. Bombay N. H. S.* xxii, 1913, p. 639, and xxvi, 1919, p. 574, and xxix, 1924, p. 878, and *Sn. Ceylon*, 1921, p. 302, McCann, *J. Bombay N. H. S.* xlv, 1940, p. 200.

Passerita purpurascens Günther, 1864, *Rept. Brit. Ind.* p. 306, pl. 23 F (Ceylon, London).

Like *nasutus*, differing as follows — Dermal appendage longer, sometimes longer than the eye, formed below by the rostral, covered above by small scales, no median groove above, nasals often in contact with one another in front of the internasals. V 179–193, C 151–178 (Ceylon), V 182–203, C 169–208 (S. India), A. 2.

Greyish or brownish, powdered with brown, and with blackish transverse or oblique spots, above, a dark brown rhomboidal spot on the top of the head, and a brown stripe on each side passing through the eye.

Total length ♂ 1125, tail 470, ♀ 1730, tail 710 mm.

Range The Western Ghats (Karwar, N. Kanara, Nilgiris, Castle Rock, Nellampatty Hills, Travancore), Ceylon. Found in the plains and in the hills up to 3,000 feet.

Subfamily HOMALOPSINÆ.

FRESHWATER SNAKES

Homalopsidæ, Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p. 275—*Homalopsinæ*, Boulenger, F B. I 1890, p 372, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 1, Werner, Arch. Naturg. Berlin, lxxxix, 1923, 8 p 158, Smith, P Z S 1931, p 398

Dentition well developed, the last two, sometimes three, maxillary teeth grooved and usually enlarged Nostril crescentic, on the upper surface of the snout, eye small, directed more or less upwards, head shields often broken up, ventrals moderately well developed or narrow Body usually stout, tail moderate or short Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column

Thoroughly aquatic snakes, but often found on land in the vicinity of water, all of them appear to be equally at home both in fresh and salt water. They feed chiefly on fish, which are often swallowed under water They bring forth living young

In accordance with their aquatic habits and the need for complete closure of the mouth, the rostral shield is never deeply excavated, as in most of the Colubrinæ. It is provided, in addition, with a more or less distinct downward-projecting tongue of tissue, the structure being best developed in those species that live an entirely aquatic existence (Smith, 1931) The closure of the nostril is discussed on p 17

The hemipenis, except for small variations in detail, does not differ throughout the subfamily, and the following description will serve for all.

The organ is short and is forked for about half its length; the distal end is finely calyculate, the lips of the cups being low and stiffened with small, blunt spines that may or may not project beyond the edges This condition merges gradually into a median area where the calyces and spines are larger. Near or at the bifurcation there is a more or less abrupt transition to an area that is beset with large flat triangular papilla-like processes arranged in longitudinal series, each one ending in a small spine

Range From S E Asia (India to China) through the Indo-Australian Archipelago to the north coast of Australia. Of the ten genera known seven are monotypic and only *Enhydris* has more than two species Eight of the genera inhabit the area covered by this work, the remaining two, *Myron* and *Heurnia*, occurring in Australia and New Guinea respectively The distribution of the Homalopsinæ accords closely with that of the Sea Snakes (Hydrophiidæ).

Key to the Genera.

- I Ventrals moderately well developed, not keeled
- A Nasal shields in contact with one another
 Parietals well developed, scales smooth *ENHYDRIS*, p 380.
 Parietals distinct, scales strongly keeled *HOMALOPSIS*, p 390.
 Parietals more or less broken up, scales keeled *CERBERUS*, p 392
- B Nasals separated by the internasal
 Scales in 17 rows, body not elongate . . . *GERARDIA*, p 394
 Scales in 25-29 rows, body not elongate *FORDONIA*, p 396
 Scales in 19 rows, body very elongate *CANTORIA*, p 397.
- II Ventrals narrow, bicarinate
 Scales smooth . . . *BITIA*, p 399.
 Scales keeled, 2 rostral appendages . . . *HERPETON*, p. 400

Genus *ENHYDRIS*.

- Enhydris* Sonn & Latr. 1802, Hist Nat Rept iv, p. 200 (type *cærulea*=*enhydris*)
Hyperrhina Wagler, 1830, Syst. Amphib pp 132, 169 (type *Homalopsis aer* Boie)
Potamophis Cantor, 1836, Tr Med Phys Soc Calcutta, viii, p 139 (type *lusingtoni*)
Ferania Gray, 1842, Zool Misc p 67 (type *sieboldi*).
Rachina Gray, loc cit. p 67 (type *indica*).
Miralia Gray, loc cit p 68 (type *alternans*).
Hypsiocopus Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept p 25 (type *plumbea*)
Pelophis Fitzinger, loc cit p 25 (type *alternans*).
Pythonomorphus Fitzinger, loc cit p 25 (type *sieboldi*)
Phytolopsis Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit Mus p 67 (type *punctata*)
Eurostus (not of Dallas, 1851) Dumeril, 1853, Mem. Acad. Sci Fr xviii, p 498 (type *dussumieri*)
Trigonurus Dumeril, loc cit p 498 (type *sieboldi*)
Tachyplotus Reinhardt, 1866, Vidensk. Meddel p 151 (type *hedemanni*=*punctata*)
Feranioides Carilleyle, 1869, J A S Bengal, xxxviii, pp 192, 196 (type *jamnaticus*)
Pythonopsis Peters, 1871, Mon Akad Berlin, p. 576 (type *borneensis*=*punctata*)
Homalophis Peters, loc cit p 577 (type *doræ*)
Pseudoferania Ogilby, 1890, Proc Linn Soc NS Wales (2) v, p 51 (type *macleayi*)
Dneurostus Berg, 1901, Com Mus Nac Buenos Aires, p 280 (subst name for *Eurostus*)

Maxillary teeth 10 to 16, followed by a pair of slightly enlarged grooved fangs, eye small with vertical pupil. Head scarcely distinct from neck, with large shields, nasals in contact with one another, the internasal behind them, loreal present. Head depressed, body cylindrical, scales smooth, in 19 to 33 rows. Tail moderate, subcaudals paired.

Common characters unless otherwise stated.—A suture from the nostril to the labial or the loreal, internasal broader than long, 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, temporals 1+2, posterior pair of genials separated by scales, anal divided.

Range The Oriental Region, Southern China to Formosa; the Indo-Australian archipelago, N. Queensland. Some 16 species are known

The "Hurriah" of Russell (Ind Serp 1 1796, p. 45, pl. 40), which was made by Daudin the type of *Hurria bilineata* (Mag. Encycl An 8, v 1803, p. 434), has been generally referred to *Enhydrys enhydrys*, and it certainly resembles it closely in coloration and general configuration. It was described by Russell from a sketch of a head, neck and tail,

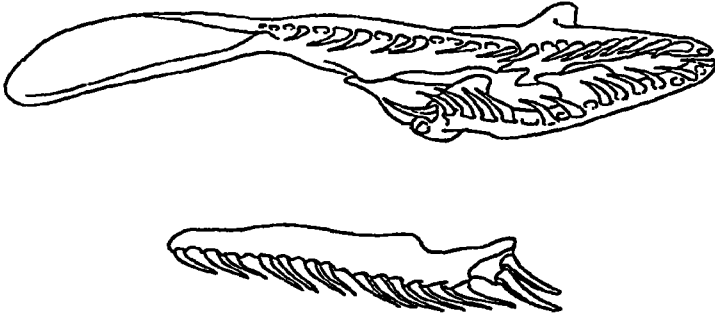


Fig 121 —Maxilla and palato-maxillary arch of *Enhydrys enhydrys*

and a description sent him by a correspondent, but was said to have the anterior subcaudal plates single, a character so far unknown in *Enhydrys*.

Key to the Species

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| A. Scales in 19 rows | <i>plumbea</i> , p. 382. |
| B Scales in 21–23 rows (rarely 25 in <i>chinensis</i>) | |
| I Loreal in contact with the internasal | |
| Scales in 21 rows, V 116–145 | <i>jagori</i> , p. 384 |
| Scales in 21 (23 rows), V 141–174 | <i>enhydrys</i> , p. 383 |
| Scales in 21 or 23 rows; V 105–115; sides with black vertical bars | <i>innominata</i> , p. 385. |
| Scales in 21 rows, V 118–121, black with light cross-bars or annuli | <i>smithi</i> , p. 385 |
| Scales in 23 (21) rows, 2 internasals; V. 129–137, C 61–74 | <i>longicauda</i> , p. 386 |
| II Loreal not reaching the internasal. | |
| Scales in 21 rows; V, 158–169; C 47–53 | <i>bennetti</i> , p. 386 |
| Scales in 23 (rarely 25) rows V 136–154; C. 36–52 | <i>chinensis</i> , p. 387. |
| C Scales in 25–31 rows | |
| Scales in 25 rows, loreal not in contact with the internasal, V. 120–130 | <i>maculosa</i> , p. 387. |
| Scales in 27 rows; loreal in contact with the internasal; V 124–136 | <i>bocourti</i> , p. 388. |
| Scales in 27 rows; two internasals | <i>dussumieri</i> , p. 389. |
| Scales in 29–31 rows; two internasals | <i>seboldi</i> , p. 389. |

288 *Enhydris plumbea*.

Homalopsis plumbea Boie, 1827, Isis, p 560 (Java, Leiden), Schlegel, Phys Serp II, 1837, p 346, pl xii, figs 12 & 13 — *Hypsirhina plumbea*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 280, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 376, fig, and Cat Sn Brit Mus III, 1896, p 5, and Rept Malay Pen. 1912, p 160, Wall, J Bombay N H S. xxix, 1924, p 866 — *Enhydris plumbea*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 315, fig ; Bourret, Serp. Indochine, 1936, p 276
Hypsirhina hardwickii Gray, 1834, Ill. Ind Zool II, pl 87, fig 1 (Penang, London)

Snout broadly rounded, internasal single, not touching the loreal, which is about as long as high, frontal broader than

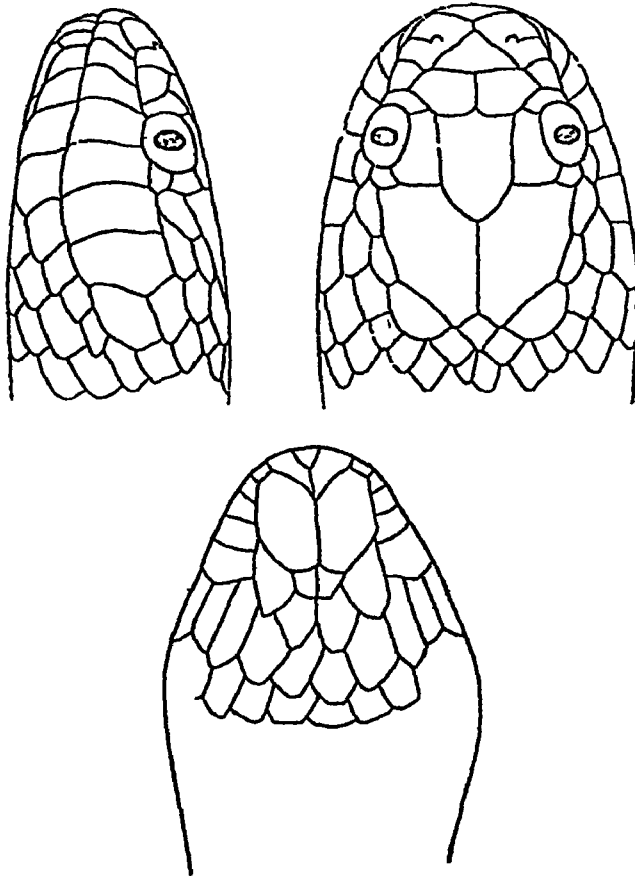


Fig 122 — *Enhydris plumbea* (After Boulenger, F B I 1890)

the supraoculars ; 8 supralabials, 4th touching the eye, 6th and 7th largest, anterior pair of genials not or scarcely longer than the posterior pair, in contact with 4-5 labials. Body moderately stout ; scales in 19 rows V 120-136. C. 29-45.

Olive or greenish above, uniform or with a series of small black spots usually on the vertebral line, outer 2-3 scale-rows

yellowish, uniform in the young, margined with grey in the adult, lower parts yellow or whitish, with or without a ventral series of dark spots, tail with a median black line or series of dots

Total length ♀ 380, tail 50 mm

Range Burma as far north as lat 22°, Siam, French Indo-China, Hainan, southern China to Formosa; Hong Kong, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago

Enhydris plumbea is not uncommon in Siam, but is more often met with in the vicinity of streams in hilly districts than near the coast. I obtained a specimen at Bockor, in the Elephant Mts, Cambodia, at 3,000 feet altitude, another was caught in the fishing-nets at Koh Lak in the Gulf of Siam.

It feeds on frogs and fish. It is extremely active in its movements and bites readily when caught, and in these respects differs from most of the other members of the genus that I have met with.

289 *Enhydris enhydris*.

- Russell, 1796, Ind Serp 1, p 35, pl xxx (Ankapilly Lake)
Hydrus enhydris Schneider, 1799, Hist Amph 1, p 245 ("Indiæ orientalis") — *Hypsirhina enhydris*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 281, pl xxi, fig K, Jan, Icon Gén, Lav 30, 1868, pl iii, fig 2 & pl v, fig 1, Theobald, Cat Rept Brit Ind 1876, p 183, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 376, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 6, Wall & Evans, J Bombay, N. H. S xii, 1900, p 348, and 1901, p. 616; Wall, ibid xix, 1910, p 831, and xxi, 1912, p 1017, col pl & map, and xxx, 1924, p 866, and xxx, 1925, p 817; D'Abreu, ibid. xxi, p 203, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, 1, 1914, p 127; Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 280 — *Enhydris enhydris*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p. 314, pl xii, figs. D-I; Shaw & Shebbeare, J Darjeeling N H S iv, 1929, p 54
Hydrus atrocæruleus Shaw, 1802 Gen Zool Amphib iii, p 567 (based on Russell's "Mutta Pam")
Enhydris cærulea Sonn & Latr 1802, Hist Nat. Rept iv, p 202 (based on Russell's "Mutta Pam")
Coluber pythonissa Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vii, p 107.
Homalopsis aer Boie, 1826, Isis, p 214, and 1827, p 560
Potamophis lusingtonii Cantor, 1836, Pr. Med Phys Soc Calcutta, vii, p 139 (India)
Homalopsis olivaceus Cantor, 1839, P. Z S p 55 (Bengal; col. sketch in Bodleian Lib)
Hypsirhina trilineata Gray, 1842, Zool. Misc p 66 (India, London)
Hypsirhina furcata Gray, ibid p. 66 (type loc unknown; London).
Hypsirhina bilineata Gray, ibid. p. 66 (China. London)
Eurostus dussumieri Dum. & Bibr 1854, Exp. Gen vii, p 953 (Bengal; Paris), Atlas, pl 84
Helicops indicus Annandale, 1905, J. A. Soc. Bengal, i (n.s.), p. 211, and corrigenda (Bengal).
Hypsirhina albolineata, Morice, 1875, Fauna Cochinchine, p 58 (appears to be a *nom. nud.* specimen in Lyons).

Snout broadly rounded; internasal single, twice as broad as long. in contact with the loreal: frontal broader than the

supraocular; loreal subquadrangular in shape, 8 supralabials, 4th touching the eye, last very small, anterior pair of genials smaller than the posterior pair, in contact with 4 labials. Body stout, scales in 21 (rarely 23) rows. V 141-174, C 46-70.

There are two colour forms —

I Brownish, greyish or olivaceous above with a dark vertebral stripe occupying from 4-8 scale-rows, and bounded on either side by a pale stripe, most distinct on the hinder part of the body, outer 3 scale-rows, whitish, yellowish, buff or red, the colours sometimes alternating, ventrals yellow or whitish, margined laterally with brown and usually with a median series of brown spots, head brown above, indistinctly variegated with grey or with an indistinct dark stripe on each side through the eye. Juveniles have three light lines down the back, a vertebral and two lateral, in the adult the vertebral line is usually lost.

II Brown above with three series of indistinct dark spots, a vertebral and two lateral, extending down the whole length of the back and tail. In coloration this form closely resembles that of *jagori*.

Total length ♂ 645, tail 145, ♀ 810, tail 150 mm.

Range N.E. India (United Provinces, Vizagapatam district, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal as far north as the Himalayan foot-hills), Assam, Burma; Siam, French Indo-China, S. China, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago.

Fairly common in ponds, irrigated fields, and sluggish waters in Southern Burma, Siam, and Cochinchina.

It feeds principally on fish, but one sent to me in Bangkok disgorged a scink. In disposition it is quiet, and never attempts to bite when handled. From 6-18 young are produced at a time.

290 *Enhydris jagorii*.

Hypsirhina (Eurostus) jagori Peters, 1863, Mon. Akad. Berlin, p. 245 (Siam, Berlin).—*Hypsirhina jagori*, Günther, Rept. Brit. Ind. 1864, p. 282, Tirant, Rept. Batr. Cochinchine, 1885, p. 1, Boulenger, Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus., iii, 1896, p. 6; Flower, P. Z. S. 1899, p. 676.

Hypsirhina enhydris subternata Bourret, 1934, Bull. Gen. Instr. Pub. Hanoi, March, p. 9 (Soc. Trang, Cochinchina; Paris), and Serp. Indochine, 1936, p. 282.

Snout blunt, squarish, internasal single, twice as broad as long, in contact with the loreal, which is elongate, frontal broader than the supraocular; anterior pair of genials larger than the posterior pair, in contact with 4 labials. Body stout, scales in 21 rows; V 116-145; C 38-61.

Greyish or olivaceous above, with more or less distinct blackish spots, usually arranged in pairs on the vertebral line, and with a series of larger angular or flower-shaped ones on

the flanks, sometimes an indistinct light dorso-lateral stripe, ventrals and outer 3 or 4 scale-rows yellow, pink, or whitish the outer margins of the ventrals and adjacent scale-rows heavily margined with grey, sometimes a dark median ventral line or series of spots, head grey above, speckled with darker

Total length ♀ 560, tail 90 mm *

Range The plain of Central Siam (Bangkok, Korat) Cochín-China, Laos, Kontum in Annam, lat 16° 30' N.

291 *Enhydris innominata*.

Hypsihrina innominata Morice, 1875, Coup d'œil Faune Cochinchine, p. 58 (Tay-ninh, Cochinchina, Lyon) — *Enhydris innominata*, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, viii, 1929, p. 49

Internasal single, twice as broad as long, in contact with the loreal, frontal broader than the supraocular; loreal a little longer than high, 8 supralabials, 4th touching the eye, last horizontally divided, anterior pair of genials much larger than the posterior pair, in contact with 5 labials. Scales in 21 or 23 rows V 105-115, C 40-51

Greyish-brown above with small black spots arranged in three fairly regular longitudinal series, flanks and belly yellowish-white, with broad, closely set black vertical bars which extend on to the outer margins of the ventral shields, tail below and on the sides alternately banded with black and white

Total length. ♀ 175, tail 72 mm

Range Cochín China The type, a ♀, has 23 scales round the body. Five other specimens in the Paris Museum have 21 scales round the body

292 *Enhydris smithi*.

Hypsihrina smithi Boulenger, 1914, J Nat Hist Soc Siam i, p. 69 (Bangkok; London) — *Enhydris smithi*, Smith, ibid. viii, 1929, p. 50.

Snout blunt, squarish, internasal single, much broader than long, in contact with the loreal, which is about as broad as high, frontal not much broader than the supraocular, 8 supralabials, 4th touching the eye, anterior pair of genials much longer than the posterior pair, in contact with 4-5 labials. Body very stout, scales in 21 rows V 118-127; C 54-56

Black above, paler below, with narrow, more or less complete annuli which are pinkish above, yellowish below, on the anterior part of the back these are linked together to form festoons; head black with indistinct markings

Total length ♀ 680, tail 130 mm

Range Siam I know of 4 specimens Two were obtained

* This is the specimen recorded by Flower measuring 635 mm in length when fresh.

in the river at Bangkok, a third on the sea-coast of Hua Hin in the Gulf of Siam, all are adult females. There is a juvenile in the Natural History Museum of Paris labelled "Siam."

This handsome snake is closely related to *innominata* and may prove to be only a race of that species.

293 *Enhydris longicauda*.

Hypsirrhina longicauda Bourret, 1934, Bull Instr Pub Gen. Hanoi, Sept p 20 (Cambodia, Paris), and Serp Indochine, 1936, p 284, fig. head

Snout bluntly squarish, a pair of internasals in contact with the loreals; frontal broader than the supraocular, loreal longer than high, or divided into two by a vertical suture, 8 or 9 supralabials, 4th, or 4th and 5th, touching the eye, anterior pair of genials much larger than the posterior, in contact with 5 labials. Body stout, scales in (21) 23 rows V 129-137, C 61-74

Adult.—Greyish-brown above, many of the scales white, margined with brown, a vertebral series of large, dark brown spots and two indistinct dark dorso-lateral stripes, lower parts pale brown with small whitish spots, one series of which forms a median ventral line, the colour of the back is continued on to the belly as indistinct V-shaped marks, a series of light chevron-shaped marks upon the tail. The young are dark brown above, with three longitudinal series of rounded, blackish spots, a vertebral and two dorso-lateral, the vertebral series, which are the larger, extend on to the tail, the dorso-lateral stop at the vent, lower parts black, this colour separated from the brown of the back by a fine light zig-zag line, the angles of which correspond to the dorsal spots, a median series of light, transversely arranged spots, best marked anteriorly, and connected with the angles of the zig-zag line by a series of small light spots, tail with light, transverse lines. Head dark brown above, with black and white markings, chin and throat white.

Total length 530, tail 145 mm

Known from three specimens, an adult caught in the Great Lake (Tonlé Sap) of Cambodia, and two juveniles from the neighbouring district

294 *Enhydris bennetti*.

Hypsirrhina bennetti Gray, 1842, Zool Misc p 67 (China, London), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 8, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 286 — *Enhydris bennetti*, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, vi, 1923, p 203, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 309, pl xii

Hypsirrhina maculata Dum & Eibr 1854, Erp Gén vii, p 950 (China, Paris) — *Hypsirrhina enhydris* var *maculata* Jen, Icon Gén, Liv 30, 1868, pl iv, fig 1

Snout blunt, squarish; internasal small, well separated

from the loreal, frontal broader than the supraocular, loreal as long as high, 7 supralabials, 4th touching the eye, 6th-7th largest, anterior pair of genials about twice as large as the posterior pair, in contact with 4 labials. Body stout, scales in 21 rows. V. 158-169, C. 47-53.

Greyish-olive above, with two series of large ill-defined black spots, sometimes connected with one another upon the vertebral line, upper lip, sides of body (scale-rows 2 to 4), and lower parts, yellowish-white, the outer row of scales, ventrals and subcaudals heavily edged with grey, head grey above; the nape with a dark vertebral stripe.

Total length ♀ 395, tail 95 mm.

Range Hainan; Southern China.

I obtained three specimens in the Straits of Hainan (Hoi-how), they were caught at sea by the fishermen in their nets. They appear to be the only examples with exact data of locality.

295 *Enhydris chinensis*.

Hypsirrhina chinensis Gray, 1842, Zool. Misc. p. 66 (China, London), Boulenger, Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. iii, 1896, p. 8, Bourret, Serp. Indochine, 1936, p. 287 — *Enhydris chinensis*, Smith, J. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam, vi, 1923, p. 203, Pope, Rept. China, 1936, p. 311, pl. xiii, A, B, C.

Like *bennetti* in head scalation but the internasal larger.

Scales in 23, rarely 25, rows. V. 136-154, C. 36-52.

Grey above with small scattered black spots which are collected on the nape to form a vertebral line; upper lip, outer scale-rows, and lower parts yellowish-white; outer row of scales, ventrals, and subcaudals heavily edged with grey.

Range Tong-King; Hainan, Southern China to Formosa.

Common in irrigated fields, ponds, and canals in Tong-King (Bourret) and in the lowlands of Southern China (Pope). According to Pope it is found also at considerable altitudes on the plateaus of Southern China, avoiding a true mountain environment. I obtained specimens at sea in the Straits of Hainan (Hoi-how). It feeds on fish and produces from 3 to 12 young at a time.

296 *Enhydris maculosa*.

Hypsirrhina maculata (non Dum. & Bibr. 1854), Blanford, 1879, J. A. S. Bengal, xlviii, p. 130 (Pegu district).

Hypsirrhina maculosa Blanford, 1881, P. Z. S. p. 226 (subst. name for *maculata*).

Hypsirrhina blanfordi Boulenger, 1890, F. B. I. p. 377, and Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. iii, 1896, p. 10, Slater, J. A. S. Bengal, 1891, p. 244, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxix, 1924, p. 866.

Snout blunt, squarish, internasal small, separated from the loreal, which is about as long as high. Frontal broader

than the supraocular, 7 supralabials, 4th touching the eye, last 2 largest, anterior pair of genials much larger than the posterior pair, in contact with 4-5 labials. Scales in 25 rows. Body very stout. V 125-130. C 33-45.

Blackish-ashy with 3 rows of largish, irregularly-shaped black spots down the back, each spot including several scales, lower parts whitish, the outer scale-rows and outer edges of the ventrals dark-edged, a series of dark spots down the middle of the ventrals.

Total length 300, tail 45 mm.

Range S Burma (Pegu district, near Bassein). Known only from a few specimens.

297 *Enhydryis bocourti*.

Hypsirrhina bocourti Jan, 1865, Arch Zool Anat Phys iii, p 258 (Bangkok, Paris), and Icon Gén., Liv 28, 1868, pl v, fig 2, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 10, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 161, Flower, P Z S 1899, p 676, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, i, 1914, p 100, photo and fig, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 290.

Hypsirrhina multilineata Tirant, 1885, Rept Batr Cochinchine, p 41, and Miss Pavie Indo-Chine, Zool 1904, p 484 (Cochin-China; Paris).

Hypsirrhina gigantea Werner, 1923, Ann Naturhist Mus Wien, xxxvi, p 163 (type loc unknown, Vienna), Smith, Ann Mag Nat Hist (10) i, 1928, p 497.

Hypsirrhina bocourti soctrangensis Bourret, 1936, Serp Indochine, p 291 (Soc-Trang, Cochin China, Paris).

Snout broadly rounded. internasal usually undivided, touching or just separated from the loreal, frontal narrower than the supraocular, loreal a little longer than high, 7 or 8 supralabials, 4th touching the eye, last 1 or 2 horizontally divided, anterior pair of genials much larger than the posterior pair, in contact with 5 labials. Body very stout, scales in 27, rarely 29, rows. V 120-136, C 36-49.

Young — Greenish black above, with narrow yellow transverse bars or series of spots, the intervening scales with or without a small median spot, forming more or less distinct longitudinal lines. lower parts yellow, the dark colour of the back tapering into vertical bars on the sides of the body and forming complete or interrupted rings across the belly. In the adult the dark green is replaced by olive and the markings are much less distinct.

Total length ♂ 620, tail 100 ♀ 1140, tail 150 mm, girth 140 mm.

Range Siam, as far north as Paknampo, Cambodia, Cochin-China, the Malay Peninsula, as far south as Kedah.

Bocourt's Water-Snake is the largest, both in length and girth, of all the Homalopsinæ. It is not uncommon in the low-lying country in the vicinity of Bangkok and in Cochin China. Its temper is uncertain, and its large size enables it

to inflict a very serious bite if handled carelessly. Those that I kept fed freely on frogs. A female obtained in Kedah by Major Flower gave birth to 17 young, their average length being 220 mm.

298 *Enhydris dussumieri*.

Eurostus dussumieri Dum & Bibr. 1854, Érp Gen vii, p 953, Atlas, pls 77, 84 (? Bengal, Paris).—*Hypsirhina dussumieri*, Jan, Icon Gén 1868, Lav 30, pl 3, fig., Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 19.

Hypsirhina malabarica Werner, 1913, Jahrb. Wiss Anst Hamburg, xxx, (2) p 26 (Cochin, Malabar coast, Hamburg).

Snout blunt, squarish, internasal longitudinally divided, just separated from the loreal, frontal about as broad as the supraocular, loreal squarish; 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, temporals 1+2, 8 supralabials, 4th touching the eye; anterior pair of genials much larger than the posterior pair, in contact with 5 infralabials. Body stout, scales in 27 rows V. 144–150, C 34–39; A 2.

Brown above with three blackish longitudinal stripes, a vertebral and two dorso-lateral, outer three scale-rows whitish, spotted with brown and bordered above with white; ventrals whitish, the outer edges of the shields spotted with brown and with a median line of spots of the same colour.

Total length 670, tail 75 mm.

The type of *dussumieri* is a female, and it was said to have come from Bengal. Herr P. de Grys has kindly compared my description of it with the type of *Hypsirhina malabarica* in Hamburg, and agrees with me that the two should be united. I do not know of any other specimens.

299 *Enhydris sieboldi*.

Homalopsis sieboldi Schlegel, 1837, Phys Serp ii, p 349, pl xiii, figs 4 & 5 (Bengal, Leiden).—*Ferania sieboldi*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 284, Anderson, P Z S 1871, p 180, Murray, J Bombay N H S i, 1886, p 219, pl.—*Hypsirhina sieboldi*, Jan, Icon Gén, Lav. 30, 1868, pl iv, fig 2, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 377, and Cat. Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 11; Slater, J A S Bengal, lx, 1891, p 245, Wall, J Bombay N H S xi, 1898, p 732, and xviii, 1921, pp 117 and 920, and xxix, 1924, p 866.

Feranioides jamnaticus Carlleyle, 1869, J. A. S. Bengal, xxxviii, p 196 (Jumna R., near Agra; Calcutta).

Snout blunt, squarish, internasal longitudinally divided, touching or just separated from the loreal, frontal broader than the supraocular, loreal about as long as high; sometimes 2 preoculars, the lower of the two and the postocular often extending to below the eye, 7 or 8 supralabials, 4th touching the eye, last 1 or 2 horizontally divided, anterior pair of genials much larger than the posterior pair, in contact with 4 or 5 labials. Body stout, scales in 29 (rarely 31) rows V. 147–158, C. 48–56.

Whitish or buff above, with dark brown, black-edged elliptical or rhomboidal, transverse, spots broader than their interspaces; a series of roundish spots on each side alternating with the dorsal spots, head with three dark brown longitudinal stripes confluent between the eyes, lower parts white, chequered with black.

Total length · 780, tail 110 mm. (♀)

Range India (Travancore, Bombay, Delhi, Agra, Saugor, Fyzabad, Pusa, Patna, Champaram, Mymensingh); Assam (Samaguting). Burma (Pegu, *vide* Wall).

Genus HOMALOPSIS.

Homalopsis Kuhl & Hasselt, 1822, *Alg Konst Lett Bode*, 1, 7, p 101, and *Isis*, 1822, p 474 (type *Coluber horridus*); Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 373, and *Cat Sn Brit Mus* iii, 1896, p. 13

Pythonia Blyth, 1859, *J A S Bengal*, xxviii, p 297 (type *semizonata*)

Maxillary teeth 11 to 13, followed by a pair of slightly enlarged, grooved fangs; anterior mandibular teeth much longer than the posterior, eye small with vertical pupil, head distinct from neck, with large shields more or less complete; nasals in contact with one another, the internasal being behind them; loreal present, body cylindrical, scales striated and strongly keeled, in 39 to 47 rows; ventrals well developed; tail moderate, subcaudals paired. A single species

300 *Homalopsis buccata*.

Russell, 1801, *Ind Serp.* ii, p 39, pl xxxiii (Java)

Coluber buccatus Linnaeus, 1754, *Mus Ad Frid* p 29, pl xix, fig 3, and *Syst Nat*, 10th ed 1758, p 217 (India)—*Homalopsis buccata*, Günther, *Rept Brit Ind* 1864, p 285; Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 374, fig, and *Cat Sn Brit Mus* iii, 1896, p 14, and *Rept Malay Pen* 1912, p 162, Wall, *J. Bombay N H S.* xxx, 1924, p 867, and xxx, 1925, p 817, Smith, *J Nat. Hist. Soc Siam*, 1, 1914, p 101, Bourret, *Serp Indochine*, 1936, p 293

Coluber monolis Linn., 1758, *Syst Nat. Ed*, 10, p 221 ("America"), Andersson, *Bih Svens Vet Akad Stockholm*, xxiv, 1898, iv, 6, p 34

Coluber subalbidus Gmelin, 1788, *Syst Nat* iii, p 1103, based on Seba, ii, pl 21, fig 3)

Coluber horridus Daudin, 1803, *Hist Nat Rept* vii, p 71

Homalopsis hardwickei Gray, 1842, *Zool Misc* p 65 (India, London)

Homalopsis semizonata Blyth, 1855, *J A S Bengal*, xxiv, p 187 (Martaban, Calcutta)

Snout broadly rounded, nostril connected by suture to the first labial; internasal often divided by a longitudinal suture, prefrontals sometimes separated by an azygous scale, frontal usually broken up into two or more pieces, the anterior half entire, usually narrower than the supraocular, parietals

short, about as broad as long, usually entire, loreal elongate, sometimes divided by a vertical suture, not touching the internasal, 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, often 2-3 suboculars separating the eye from the labials, temporals small, scale-like, 10-12 supralabials, 5th and 6th below the eye, those posterior to it usually divided horizontally, 2-3 pairs of

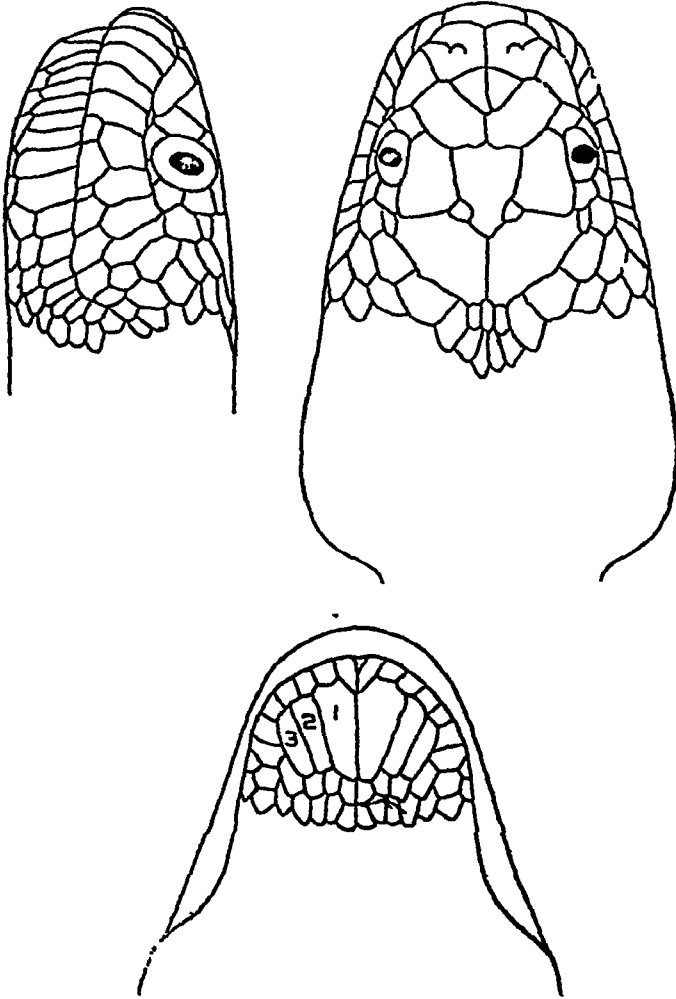


Fig. 123 —*Homalopsis buccata* (After Boulenger, F. B I 1890)

genials in a transverse row, inner largest and in contact with the first three labials. Scales in 43-47, usually 45, rows. V. ♂ and ♀ 160-176, C. ♂ 78-103, ♀ 70-91 (for specimens from the Indian and Indo Chinese regions)

Young blackish above with narrow white cross-bars, usually a broad one alternating with a narrow one, the latter often incomplete; head white above with regular black and brown

markings, namely, a triangular spot on the tip of the snout, a stripe passing through the eye to the angle of the mouth, and an oval spot on the parietal region, lower scale-rows and ventrals white, the latter with a series of small black spots on their outer edges, sometimes absent; tail below thickly spotted with dark brown or black

With age the markings become indistinct, and fully grown individuals are dark greenish or deep plum-coloured above, the light cross-bars being dull yellowish in colour margined with black, belly yellow, throat white

An example from Eastern Siam (B M Coll) has the whole of the lower parts grey, thickly spotted with black

Total length - ♂ 760, tail 190, ♀ 1310, tail 285 mm

Range Rivers, canals, and ponds of Burma south of lat 17°, Siam, Cambodia, Cochín-China, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago. Common in southern Indo-China; usually not found far above tidal limits.

Of sluggish disposition, never attempting to bite when handled, feeding on fish and frogs. From 9-21 young are born at a time. Individuals that I kept in captivity spent most of their time on land and burrowed frequently into the mud of their cage.

Genus CERBERUS.

Cerberus Cuvier, 1829, Reg Annu 2nd ed n, p 81 (type *Coluber cerberus*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 374, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 15; Smith, Bull Raffles Mus, no 3, 1930, p 61. *Hurria* Daudin, Mag Encyclop An 8, v, p 434, Stejneger, 1907, Herpet Japan, p 304.

Maxillary teeth 12 to 17; parietal shields broken up into

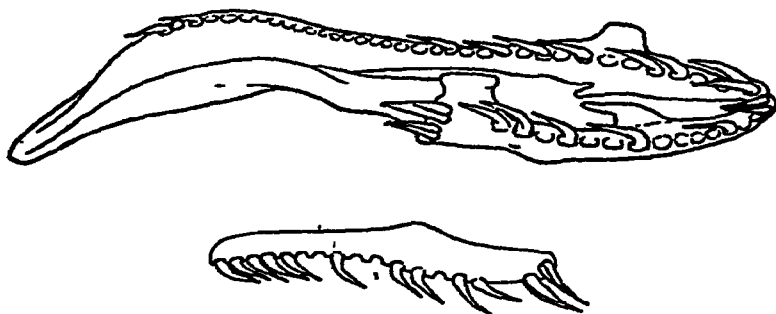


Fig 124 —Maxilla and palato-maxillary arch of *Cerberus rhynchops*.

small scales, scales in 21-29 rows, other characters as in *Homalopsis*, but the head shields less regular in outline. Three species have been described, *australis* is scarcely more than a race of *rhynchops*; the third (*microlepis*) inhabits the Philippines.

301 *Cerberus rhynchops*.

- Russell, 1796, Ind Serp 1, p 23, pl xvii (Ganjam), and u, 1801, pl xl (no locality given)
- Hydrus rhynchops* Schneider, 1799, Hist Amph 1, p 246 (based on Russell, pl xvii)—*Cerberus rhynchops*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p. 279; Anderson, P. Z. S 1871, p 179, Murray, Zool Smd, 1884, p 381, Boulenger, F. B. I 1890, p 374, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 16, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 163; "Keswal," J Bombay N. H. S 1, 1886, p 173, Wall & Evans, ibid. xiii, 1900, pp 345 and 612, Alcock & Rogers, Proc Roy Soc London, 1902, p 449, Annandale, J. A. S Bengal, 1905, p 176, and Mem Ind Mus v, 1915, p 170, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S xvi, 1905, p 307, and xxvi, 1919, p 89, col pl and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 257, Bourret, Serp Indochine, u, 1936, p. 295, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, 1, 1914, p 102, Kopstein, Treubia, Buitenzorg, xii, 1931, p 3—*Hurria rhynchops* Wall, J Bombay N. H. S xxix, 1924, p 867; Prater, ibid xxx, 1924, p 171.
- Elaps boeiformis* Schneider, 1801, Hist Amph u, p 301 (type loc not given)
- Hydrus cinereus* Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool iii, p 567 (based on Russell, pl xvii)—*Cerberus cinereus*, Cantor, 1839, P. Z. S. p 54 (Bengal, col sketch in Bodleian Library)
- Hurria schneideriana* Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept v, p 281 (substit name for *Elaps boeiformis*)
- Coluber cerberus* Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vii, p 167 (based on Russell, pl xvii)
- Homalopsis molurus* Boie, 1826, Isis, p 213 (based on Russell, pl xl).
- Cerberus grantii* Cantor, 1836, Tr Med Phys Soc Calcutta, viii, p 135 (India)
- Coluber obtusatus* Reinhardt, 1837, in Schlegel, Phys Serp. u, p 341
- Homalopsis schneideri* Schlegel, 1837, Phys Serp u, p 341, pl xii, figs 6 & 7.
- Cerberus russelli* Cuvier, 1837, in Schlegel, Phys. Serp u, p. 342 (Pondicherry)
- Cerberus acutus* Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit Mus p 65 (Borneo; London)
- Cerberus unicolor* Gray, ibid p 65 (Philippines; London)

Snout broadly rounded; nostril connected by suture to the first labial, internasal divided by a longitudinal suture; frontal broken into small scales, the anterior half usually being distinct, loreal large, higher than long, extending well on to the upper surface of the snout, in contact with, or just separated from, the internasal, 1 pre-, 1 post- and 2 suboculars, temporals small, scale-like; 9-10 supralabials, 5th and 6th below the eye, the last 2 or 3 horizontally divided; 3 pairs of genials, anterior largest, in contact with 4 infralabials, the remaining pairs separated by small scales and partly wedged in between the anterior genials and the labials. Scales striated and strongly keeled, in 23-25, rarely 21, rows, the laterals scarcely larger than the median V. (122) 137-159; C. 50-68; A. 2.

Greyish, brownish or olivaceous above with more or less distinct dark spots or cross-bars; a black streak on the side of the head, passing through the eye and on to the neck,

always distinct in the young, lower parts from pale to deep yellow, variegated or barred with black or almost entirely dark grey, the outer 3 scale-rows usually entirely yellow.

Total length ♂ 770, tail 115, ♀ 1000, tail 180 mm

Range. Coasts and tidal rivers of India and Indo-China from Bombay to Cochinchina, Ceylon, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago

A comparatively rare snake on the coasts of India but exceedingly common in southern Burma and the Gulf of Siam, at or near the mouths of rivers; it has been found in fresh water more than 100 miles from the coast. Of quiet and inoffensive disposition, it feeds on fish and has often been caught by anglers on their hook. From 8 to 26 young are born at a time, they measure from 175–200 mm in length.

Genus GERARDIA.

Gerarda Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit Mus. p. 77 (type *bicolor*) —

Gerardia Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 379, and Cat Sn Brit Mus. iii, 1896, p. 20

Campylodon (not of Cuvier 1832) Dumeril, 1853, Mem. Ac. Sc. France, xxiii, p. 499, and Dum. & Bibr. Exp. Gén. vii, 1854, p. 963 (type *prevostianum*)

Heleophis F. Müller, 1884, Verh. Nat. Ges. Basel, vii, p. 286 (type *flavescens*)

Maxillary bone extending beyond the palatine, with 11 to 13 teeth, followed by two strongly enlarged, backwardly projecting, grooved fangs, mandibular teeth subequal. Eye small, with vertical pupil, head not distinct from neck, with large shields, nasals separated by an internasal. loreal present. Body cylindrical, scales smooth, in 17 rows, ventrals well developed, tail short, subcaudals paired.

A single species

302 *Gerardia prevostiana*.

Coluber (*Homalopsis*) *prevostianus*, Eyndoux & Gervais, 1832–1837, in Guér. Mag. Zool. Cl. iii, p. 5, col. pl. 15 ("Manula") — *Gerardia prevostiana*, Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 379, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus. iii, 1896, p. 20, Wall & Evans, J. Bombay N. H. S. xii, 1900, p. 616; Wall, ibid. xvi, 1905, p. 307, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p. 262, and J. Bombay N. H. S. xxx, 1924, p. 868, Smith, Bull. Raffles Mus., no. 3, 1930, p. 62, Prater, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxx, 1924, p. 171

Gerardia bicolor Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit Mus. p. 77 (type locality unknown, London); Günther, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) i, 1868, p. 421, Theobald, Cat. Rept. Brit. Ind. 1876, p. 180

Heleophis flavescens F. Müller, 1884, Verh. Nat. Ges. Basel vii, p. 286, pl. v, fig. 2

Nostril in the nasal, frontal much broader than the supraocular; 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, loreal not in contact with the internasal, temporals 1+2 or 2+2, 7, rarely 8, supralabials, 4th touching the eye, 8th when present, very small, 2 pairs of genials, the anterior pair much the larger, in contact

with 4 labials, posterior pair separated by scales; dorsal scales subequal V. 145-153; C. 29-36; A. 2.

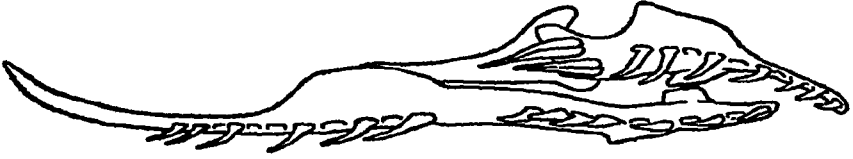


Fig. 125 —Palato-maxillary arch and maxilla of *Gerardia prevostiana*

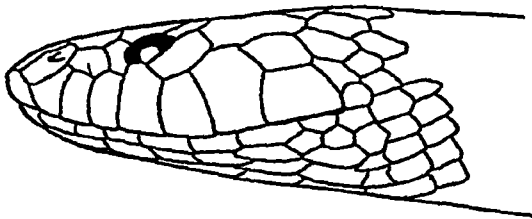
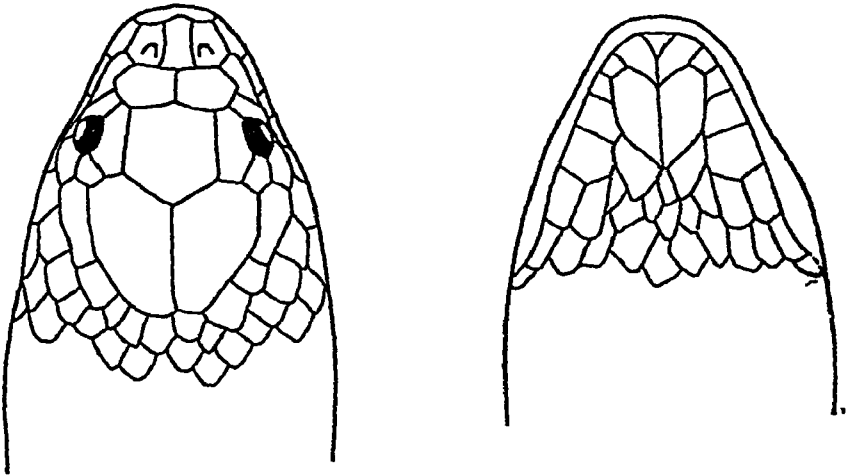


Fig 126 —*Gerardia prevostiana*

Light or dark grey or brown above, uniform; upper lip, chin and 3 outer rows of scales white; ventrals whitish with dark edges or entirely grey.

Total length . ♀ 525; tail 62 mm.

Range Coasts and tidal rivers of India (Bombay and Malabar districts), Ceylon (Kelani river), Burma (Gulf of Martaban); W. coast of the Malay Peninsula

Genus **FORDONIA.**

Fordonia Gray, 1842, Zool Misc p. 67 (type *leucobalia*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p. 378, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus iii, 1896, p. 21.

Hydropsis Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept. p. 25 (type *Homalopsis leucobalia* Schleg)

Hemiodontus Dumeril, 1853, Mem Acad Sci France, xxiii, p. 494, and Dum & Bibr., Erp Gén vii, 1854, p. 882 (subst name for *Fordonia*)

Maxillary bone with an edentulous space in front, extending beyond the palatine, with 6 to 8 teeth followed after a short interval by 2 enlarged grooved teeth, mandibular teeth subequal, eye very small, with vertical pupil, head not distinct from neck, covered with large shields, nasals separated by the internasal, normally no loreal, body cylindrical, rather stout, scales smooth, in 25-29 rows, ventrals well developed, tail short, subcaudals paired

A single species

303. *Fordonia leucobalia*.

Homalopsis leucobalia Schlegel, 1837, Phys Serp ii, p. 345; pl. xii, figs 8 & 9 (Timor, Leyden)—*Hemiodontus leucobalia*, Jan, Icon Gén. 1868, Liv. 28, vi, fig 1—*Fordonia leucobalia*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p. 378, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p. 21, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p. 164, De Rooij, Rept Indo-Austral Archi ii, 1917, p. 189, fig., Wall & Evans, J Bombay N. H. S xiii, 1900, p. 347, Annandale, J. A. S Bengal, 1905, p. 176; Wall, J. Bombay N H S xxix, 1924, p. 868, Kopstein, Treubia, Buitenzorg, xiii, 1931, p. 1; Bourret, Serp. Indo-Chine, 1936, p. 299.

Fordonia unicolor Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit Mus p. 77 (Borneo, London)

Hemiodontus chalybæus, 1863, Jan, Elenco, p. 79, and Icon Gén 1868, Liv 28, vi, fig 3 (Singapore, Milan Based on an abnormal specimen, the internasal being absent, *vide* Boulenger, F B. I.)

Fordonia bicolor Theobald, 1868, J. Linn Soc. London, p. 56 (near Rangoon).

Fordonia variabilis Macleay, 1878, Pr. Linn. Soc N. S Wales, ii, p. 219 (Port Darwin).

Nostril in the nasal; frontal much broader than the supraocular, rarely a small loreal; 1 pre- and 1-2 post-oculars, 1-2 anterior temporals, irregular in size and shape; 5 supralabials, 3rd touching the eye, 5th longest, 2 pairs of genials, subquadrangular in shape, the anterior in contact with 3-4 labials Scales in 25-27 rows in the Oriental Region. V. 138-156, the last 1-2 often divided; C 28-43

Greyish or brownish above, uniform or with small black spots in the young; whitish or yellowish below.

This form, var. *unicolor*, is found throughout the whole range of the species, but is the only one found in the Oriental Region; var *leucobalia* is restricted to the seas south of the Equator.

Total length ♂ 680, tail 100, ♀ 940, tail 125 mm

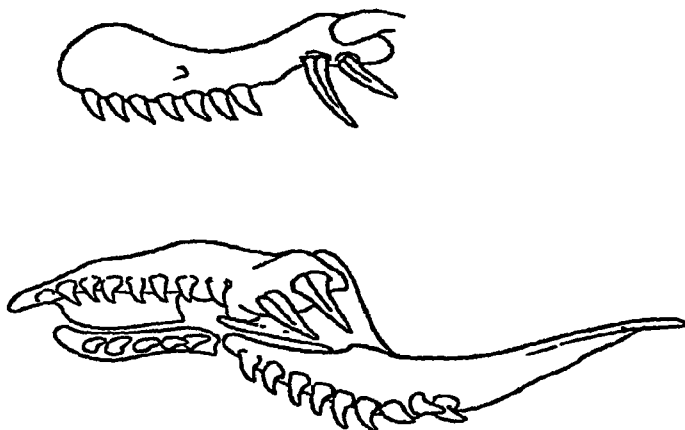


Fig 127 —Maxilla and palato-maxillary arch of
Fordonia leucobalia

Range Tidal rivers and coasts of Bengal (Sandarbans), Burma and Cochin-China; the Nicobar Islands, the Indo-Australian Archipelago to N Australia

Kopstein (1931) states that it is fairly common at Cheribon on the N. Coast of Java, living on crabs and inhabiting their holes

Genus CANTORIA.

Cantoria Girard, 1857, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. p 182 (type *violacea*), Günther, Rept. Brit Ind 1864, p 278, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 380, and Cat Sn. Brit. Mus in, 1896, p 23

Hydrodipsas Peters, 1859, Mon. Akad Berlin, p. 270 (type *elapiformis*)

Maxillary bone projecting beyond the palatine, with 9 to 11 teeth, followed after an interval by a pair of enlarged grooved fangs; anterior mandibular teeth longest. Eye small with vertical pupil Head not very distinct from neck, with large shields, nasals separated by the internasal; loreal present Body cylindrical, elongate, scales smooth, in 19 rows, ventrals moderately or well developed, not keeled; tail moderate, slightly compressed, subcaudals paired.

Two species; the second, *C. annulata* de Jung, inhabits New Guinea

304 *Cantorla violacea*.

Cantorla violacea Girard, 1857, Proc Ac Nat Sci Philad p 182 [(Singapore), and U S Explor Exped Herp 1858, p. 156, & Atlas, col pl xi, figs 7-10, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 380, fig, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 23, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 165, Wall & Evans, J Bombay N H S xii, 1901, p 612, Wall, ibid xxiii, 1914, p 166, and xxxix, 1924, p 868, De Rooij, Rept Indo-Austral Arch ii, 1917, p 191, fig *Hydrodipsas elapiformis* Peters, 1859, Mon Akad Berlin, p 270, pl —, fig 1 — *Hemodontus elapiformis*, Jan, Icon Gén Ophid 1868, Liv 28, pl vi, fig 2

Cantorla elongata Günther, 1864, Rept Brit. Ind p 277 (based on Girard's specimen)

Cantorla dayana Stoliczka, 1870, J A Soc Bengal, xxxix, p 208, pl xi, fig 5 (mouth of Moulmein R : type lost), Anderson, P. Z S 1871, p 178

Nostril in the nasal, frontal much broader than the supra-ocular, parietals elongate; loreal well separated from the

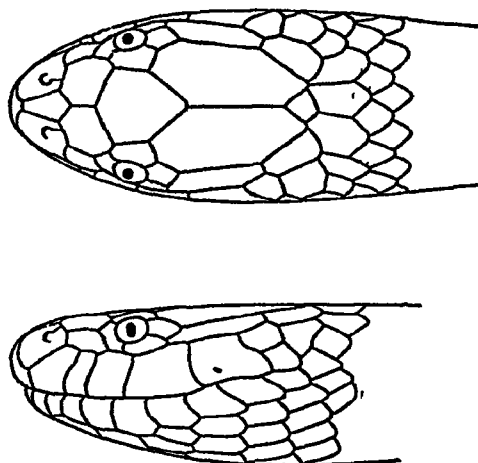


Fig 128 — *Cantorla violacea* (After Boulenger, F B I 1890)

internasal, 1 pre-, 1 post- and 1 subocular; 1 long anterior temporal, 5 supralabials, 3rd and 4th below the eye, last 2 largest, 2 pairs of genials in contact with one another, the anterior pair larger, in contact with 4 labials, dorsal scales subequal V. 260-291, a little more than half the breadth of the body, C. 53-57, A. 2 A specimen from Ross I. in the Andamans has 244 ventrals and 69 caudals

Two colour forms :—

1. Blackish above with yellow transverse bands, narrower than their interspaces on the vertebral line, widening and as broad as or broader than their interspaces on the sides of the body, head with white spots, whitish below, or with grey markings continued from the dark colour of the back; on the tail they form complete rings

2 Dark brown above, with narrow white cross-bars , outer scale-rows and belly white , head as in 1

Total length : ♀ 1200, tail 140 mm.

Range. Tidal rivers and coasts of Burma and the Malay Peninsula, from the Gulf of Martaban to Singapore , the Andaman Is , the Indo-Australian Archipelago.

Genus BITIA.

Bitia Gray, 1840, Syn Cont Brit Mus , ed 42, p 42 (nom nud), and Zool Misc 1842, p 64 (type *hydroides*)

Hypistes Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit Mus p 77 (type *fasciatus*), Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p 381, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 24

Maxillary bone projecting beyond the palatine, with 11 to 13 teeth, followed after an interval by a pair of slightly enlarged grooved fangs ; anterior mandibular teeth largest Eye small, pointing almost directly upwards, with vertical pupil. Head scarcely distinct from neck, with small shields , nasals

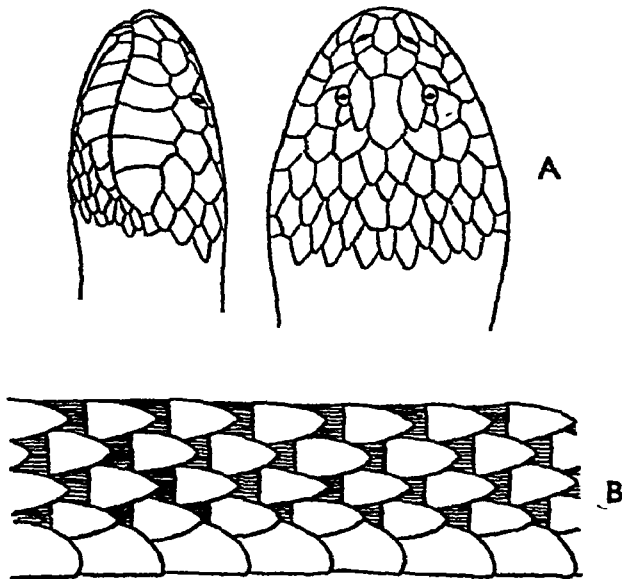


Fig 129 — *Bitia hydroides* A. Dorsal and lateral views of head (After Boulenger) B Dorsal scales $\times 3$

separated by the internasal , nasal cleft transversely dividing the nasal shield , parietals broken up Body cylindrical, scales smooth, in 37–43 rows , ventrals rather narrow, with two strong lateral keels. Tail short, feebly compressed, sub-caudals paired.

A single species.

305 *Bitia hydroides*.

Bitia hydroides Gray, 1842, Zool Misc p 64, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1849, p 63 (type locality unknown, London)

Homalopsis hydrina Cantor, 1847, Cat Malay Rept p 104, pl xl, fig 4 (Coast of Kedah, Malay Peninsula) — *Hypistes hydrinus*, Gunther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 287, pl xxiv, fig H, Stoliczka, J A S Bengal, xxix, 1870, p 207, Anderson, P Z S 1871, p 181, Theobald, Cat Rept Brit Ind 1876, p 184, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 382, fig, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 24, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 166, Wall & Evans, J Bombay N H S xiii, 1900 & 1901, pp 347 and 616, Wall, ibid xxix, 1924, p 868

Hypistes fasciatus Gray, Cat Sn Brit Mus 1849, p 78 (E Indies, London)

Nasal shield almost or completely divided into an anterior and posterior portion by the nasal cleft, frontal long and narrow, not much broader than the supraocular; loreal well separated from the internasal, a long preocular, a small postocular and a large post-subocular, parietals divided into regular scales, temporals 1+2, 7 supralabials, 4th below the eye, 5th and 6th highest, anterior pair of genials much longer than the posterior pair, in contact with 5 labials. Dorsal scales elongate, entirely attached to the interstitial skin and leaving a gap between the base of one scale and the apex of the one preceding it * Ventrals narrow, about half as broad as the body, ♂ & ♀ 157-172, C ♂ 31-35, ♀ 21-27

Pale greyish above, with blackish cross-bars, as broad as or a little narrower than their interspaces; head grey, outer scale-rows and lower parts white Wall and Evans (1900) describe it in life as having "alternate yellow and black dorsal bars, the belly buff The colours on the back are bright and the scales glazed like enamel"

Total length ♀ 450, tail 35 mm

Range Coasts and tidal rivers of Southern Burma, the Malay Peninsula and Siam Apparently common in the Gulf of Martaban

Two females obtained in September by Wall & Evans contained three and four fully-formed embryos, respectively

The type of *Bitia hydroides* is much desiccated, but the characters are sufficiently distinct to be sure of the identification

Genus **HERPETON**.

Erpeton Lacépède, 1800, Bull Sc Soc. Phil Paris, ii, p 169 (type *tentaculatus*) — *Herpeton*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 288, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 25

Rhinopirus Merrem, 1820, Tent Syst Amph pp 14 & 81 (subst. name for *Erpeton*)

Maxillary bone not extending as far forwards as the palatine, with 12 to 14 teeth, followed by a pair of grooved

* A condition found also in the *Xenodermæ*, see pp 123-129

fangs which are not larger than the preceding teeth ; anterior mandibular teeth largest Eye small with subelliptic or rounded pupil Head distinct from neck, with large shields ; two rostral appendages, covered with small scales. Body depressed, with strongly keeled scales, in 35-39 rows ; ventrals very narrow, bicarinate Tail moderate, no distinct sub-caudals.

A single species

306 *Herpeton tentaculatum*.

Erpeton tentaculatus Lacépède, 1800, Bull Sci Soc Phil Paris, ii, p 169, and Ann Mus Nat Hist Paris, ii (10), 1803, p 284, pl I (type locality unknown) — *Herpeton tentaculatum*, Günther, P Z. S. 1860, p 114, col. pl xxii, Morice, Ann Sci. Nat Paris (6), ii, 1875, (5) pl. xx, Boulenger, Cat Sn. Brit Mus. iii, 1896, p 25, Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, i, 1914, p 103, photo head, and Bull Raffles Mus no 3, 1930, p 63; Gyldenstolpe, Kungl Vet. Akad Stockholm, lv, 1916, p 19; Bourret, Serp. Indochine, 1936, p 305, fig.

Rostral separated from the nasals by small scales ; nasals usually in contact with one another ; internasal longitudinally divided ; an azygous scale between it and the prefrontals ; frontal large, much broader than the supraoculars, separated from them by small scales, loreal region covered with small scales ; 1 pre- and 1 postocular ; temporals small, scale-like, strongly keeled, 13-15 supralabials, separated from the eye by suboculars, 3-4 pairs of narrow genials in a more or less transverse series Scales in 35-39 rows, very strongly keeled : ventrals small, about twice as broad as the adjacent scales, bicarinate, 109-136 Rostral appendage about as long as its distance from the eye.

Reddish-brown above with two ill-defined dark, longitudinal stripes, one on either side of the vertebral line, the intervening area having dark spots or cross-bars, or almost entirely dark brown ; a broad dark lateral stripe, starting from the snout and passing through the eye, divided on the body into an upper and a lower portion by a light interval, below yellowish-brown, with a dark stripe on either side of the ventral shields, and usually a series of black, and white or orange, spots or short bars along the outer margin, the light spot in front Some individuals are very dark grey in colour, the only conspicuous markings being the light spots underneath

Total length ♀ 770, tail 195 mm

Range Peninsular and Central Siam, Cambodia ; Cochinchina

Annandale obtained it in the inland sea at Singgora, and this is its most southern range It is not uncommon in ponds and sluggish waters in the country round Bangkok if one knows where to look for it, and, according to Bourret,

it is not rare in Cambodia and Cochin-China. It is entirely aquatic in its habits and on land is almost helpless. It feeds on fish. When handled it neither attempts to bite nor escape. The stiff, unbending attitude which it adopts when caught has earned for it the Siamese name of "ngu kradan" or the "snake like a board." The tentacles are not sensitive and have a considerable range of movement, when the snake lies beneath the water they are pointed in a forward direction; with the snout projecting above the water—a

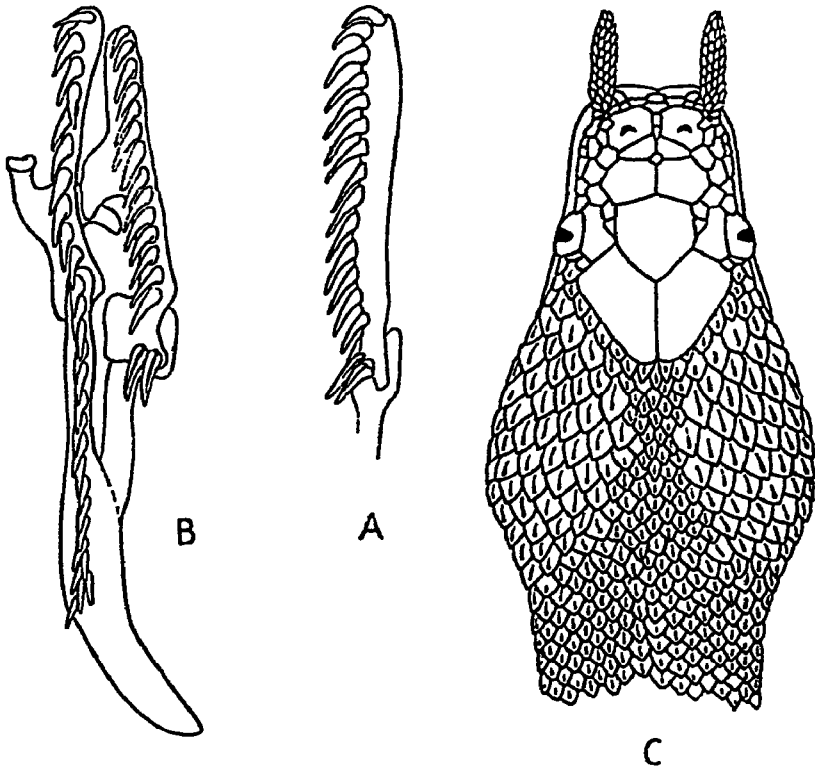


Fig. 130 — *Herpetodon tentaculatum*

A. Maxilla B. Palato-maxillary arch. C Dorsal view of head

common position for the creature to assume—they are laid back on either side of the snout. The function of the tentacles, if any, is not known, but it is possible that in movement they would act as a bait to attract fish. From 9 to 13 young are produced at a time.

Family DASYPELTIDÆ.

Rachodontidæ Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p. 141,
 Reinhardt, Overs Dansk Vid Selsk Forh 1863, p 198 —
Rhachodontinæ, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus ii, 1894, p 353
Elachistodontinæ Boulenger, 1896, Cat Sn Brit. Mus iii, p 263

Palato-maxillary arch edentulous except for a few minute teeth, anterior thoracic vertebræ with the hypapophyses much developed, penetrating the wall of the œsophagus

Two genera, namely the aglyphous African *Dasypeltis* and the opisthoglyphous Asiatic *Elachistodon*, both monotypic

The grooved teeth of *Elachistodon* can no longer be regarded as sufficient to maintain it in a family distinct from that of *Dasypeltis*

The enlarged hypapophyses of the thoracic vertebræ are developed in the same way in both genera In the specimen

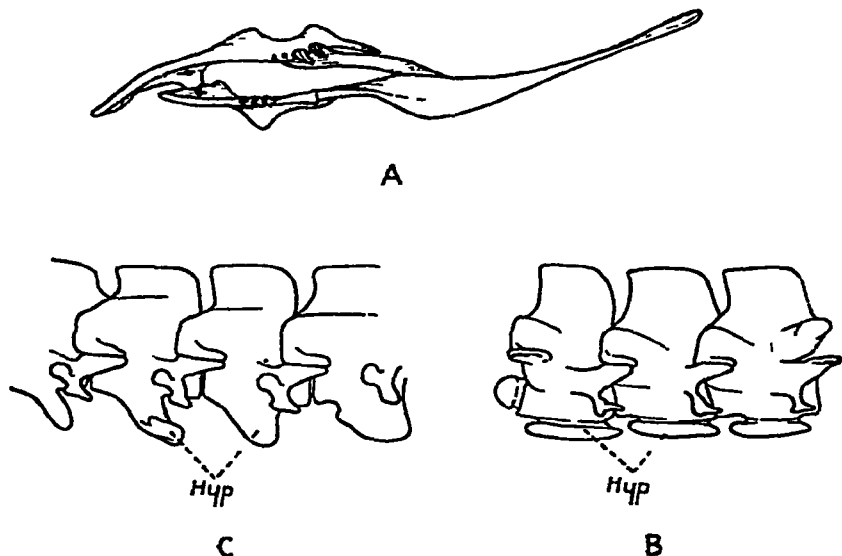


Fig 131.—*Elachistodon westermanni*. A Palato-maxillary arch. B Anterior, and C Posterior thoracic vertebræ, shewing hypapophyseal enlargements

hyp, hypapophyses.

of *Elachistodon westermanni* from Jalpaiguri, 26 vertebræ carry enlargements; the first being opposite the 10th ventral shield In the first 18 the enlargement is elongate and extends nearly the whole length of the vertebra, it has a rounded edge which projects through a longitudinal slit in the œsophageal

wall (fig B), the remaining 8 are much narrower and longer and do not penetrate the membrane (fig C). In this snake, as in its relative *Dasypeltis scaber*, there is enormous development of the Harderian gland.

Nothing is known of the habits of *Elachistodon*, but presumably it is an egg-eater, although not exclusively so, like *Dasypeltis*. The enlarged hypapophyses serve to break the shell when the egg has been swallowed and the mouth is closed, the contents are then passed on to the stomach, after which the fragments of shell are regurgitated.

Genus ELACHISTODON.

Elachistodon Reinhardt, 1863, Overs Dansk Vid Selsk Forh. p 206 (type *westermanni*), Boulenger, F. B. I 1890, p 362, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 263

Bones of the palato-maxillary arch greatly thinned, maxilla edentulous except for two minute teeth, followed by two small grooved fangs at the posterior extremity palatine with four minute teeth, edentulous in front and behind, mandible edentulous in front, followed by a series of minute teeth, 8 to 12 in number, head fairly distinct from neck, eye large, with vertically elliptic pupil, a large pit in the posterior part of the nasal shield. Body moderately elongate, feebly compressed. Scales smooth, in 15 rows, the vertebral series enlarged; tail short, subcaudals paired. Hypapophyses absent in the posterior part of the vertebral column.

307 *Elachistodon westermanni*.

INDIAN EGG-EATER

Elachistodon westermanni Reinhardt, l c s p. 206, pl. (Rangpur, Bengal, Copenhagen), Blanford, J Asiatic Soc Bengal, xlv, 1875, p 207, Boulenger, F. B. I 1890, p 363, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 264; Wall, J Bombay N. H. S. xxii, 1913, p 400, fig., and xxix, 1923, p 878 Shaw & others, J Bengal, N. H. S. xvi, 1941, p 66

Internasals as large as the prefrontals, frontal large, longer than its distance from the end of the snout, nasal large; 1 small preocular; the loreal below it touching the eye; two postoculars, 2 long anterior temporals; 6 or 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 2 pairs of genials. Scales in 15 rows, 19 on the neck, the vertebral series much enlarged, hexagonal V. 208-217; C 59-64, A 1

Dark olive-brown to blackish above, the vertebral scales yellowish-white, except at their outer margins, forming a light vertebral stripe extending the whole length of the body,

sides spotted or flecked with the same colour , whitish below, the outer margins of the ventrals and adjacent row of scales edged with brown , a yellow stripe along the top of the head from the snout to the angle of the mouth, passing above the eye , an angular bar or spot on the nape , lips yellow

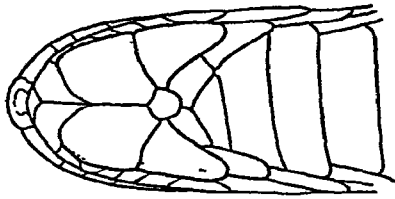
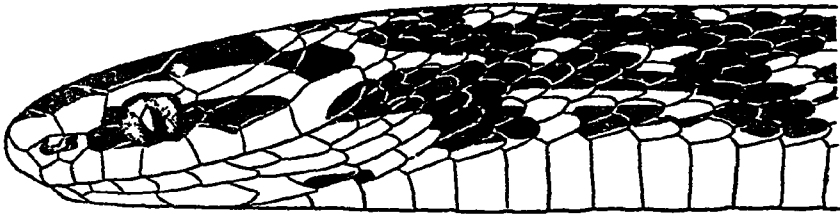
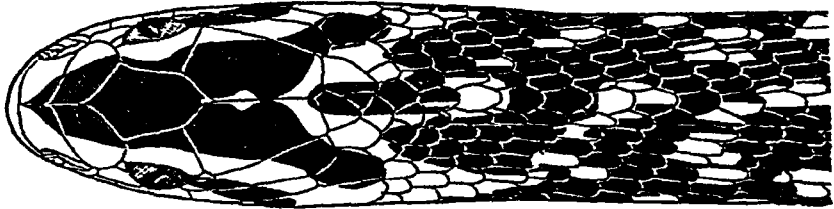


Fig 132 — *Elachistodon westermanni*

Total length : ♀ 800, tail 130 mm

Range. Northern Bengal (near Mal, Jalpaiguri district, Rungpore) , Bihar (Purneah)

Three (five, *vide* Shaw) specimens are known

Family ELAPIDÆ.

PROTEROGLYPHA.

Elapidæ Boie, 1827, Isis, p 510, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p. 337 — *Elapinaæ*, Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 382, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 310; Werner, Arch Naturg Berlin, lxxxix, 1923 (8), p 164, Hoffstetter, Arch Mus Hist Nat Lyon, xv, 1939, p 57

Characters as in the Colubridæ (p 114), except the dentition Poison-fangs attached to the anterior end of the maxillary bone, usually followed by one or more small solid teeth Head shields normal, except for the loreal, which is always absent, pupil round in all the Asiatic genera, tail cylindrical Hyapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column

The Elapidæ, together with the Hydrophudæ, comprise the proteroglyphous group of snakes, or those which have poison fangs at the anterior end of the maxilla In the poison fang the folding of the tooth is complete, and a channel is formed, but the union of the two folds can always be seen as a groove on the front of the tooth (see p 3) Grooving of the teeth, however, is not confined to those on the maxillary bone In many fully grown specimens of *Naja*, *Bungarus* and *Hydrophis* examination with a good lens will show that grooves also exist on the anterior and inner aspects of other teeth as well

The Elapidæ are found throughout the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world They are strongly represented in Australia, and the majority of the snakes that are found there belong to this family

They are not found in Europe today, but fossil Elapids, *Palæonaja*, have been described from the Miocene and Pliocene of France (Hoffstetter, 1939)

Some 30 genera are known, three inhabit the region covered by this work All the oriental Elapidæ are oviparous, *Naja* and *Bungarus* have parental instincts

Key to the Genera

- I Maxillary bone not extending forwards beyond the palatine, scales not oblique the vertebral series strongly enlarged (except in *lavidus*)

[p 407
BUNGARUS,

II Maxillary bone extending forwards beyond the palatine, vertebral series of scales not enlarged (except in *N. hannah*)

A Scales in 13-15 rows throughout the body, scales not oblique ..

CALLOPHIS, p 418.

B Scales in 15-25 rows on the body, disposed obliquely, more on the neck, which is dilatate

NAJA, p 426

Genus BUNGARUS.

KRAITS

Bungarus Daudin, 1803, Mag Encycl, An 8, v, March, p 434, based on Russell's "*Bungarum pamah*," 1, 1796, p 3, pl iii, and Hist Nat Rept v, 1803, p 263 (type *fasciatus*); Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 387, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 365; Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 711, and Pois Sn India, 1928, p 11

Pseudoboa Oppel (non Schneid, 1801), 1811, Ord Rept p 68 (type *fasciatus*)

Aspidoclonion Wagler, 1828, Icon Amphib 1, tab 2 (type *semi-fasciatus*)

Megacerophis Gray, 1849, Ann Mag Nat Hist (2) iv, p 247 (type *formosus*=*flaviceps*)

Xenurelaps Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 344 (type *bungaroides*)

Maxillary bone not extending forwards beyond the palatine, poison fangs followed by from 2 to 4 small teeth. Head not distinct from neck, head shields normal, no loreal, eye moderate or small, with round pupil. Scales smooth, in 13 to 19 rows, the vertebral row strongly enlarged, except in *lividus*, tail moderate, subcaudals single or some of them paired.

Dorsal vertebræ with strong lateral expansions connected with the pre- and postzygapophyses (fig 133, B)

Common characters, unless otherwise stated.—Nostril between two nasals; rostral broader than high, internasals shorter than the prefrontals, frontal as long as its distance from the rostral or the tip of the snout, shorter than the parietals, 1 preocular in contact with the posterior nasal, 2 postoculars, no loreal, temporals 1+2, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 6th usually the largest, 4th infralabial largest, in contact with, or just separated from, the anterior pair of genials, which are as large as, or a little larger than, the posterior. Scales smooth, the vertebral series strongly enlarged, broader than long on the hinder part of the body, Subcaudals undivided, except in *flaviceps* and *bungaroides* in which the terminal scutes are paired. As an occasional character one or more paired scutes have been recorded of several other species

The hemipenis extends to the 6th-9th caudal plate, the distal one-third or half is calyculate, the remainder spinose. The calyces are smallest near the tip of the organ and increase

in size as they approach the spinose area. Each cup is stiffened by spine-like structures which, like the ribs of an umbrella, hold the membrane and project beyond its margin. The transition from the calyculate to the spinose area is fairly abrupt, the largest spines are those nearest the calyces, they are thick and papilla-like in form, and bear a small, sharp spine at the tip. The bifurcation of the sulcus is at about the middle of the calyculate area or the junction of the calyculate and spinose areas, and the lips of the sulcus are beset with small spines throughout. I have found considerable variation within the species as regards the number and form of the spines.

Range India, Indo-China, S. China, the Malayan Region and Celebes.

With the exception of *Bungarus javanicus*, all the species known are found in the area covered by this work. In their scale characters they are remarkably constant, and a description of the head shields of one will apply equally well to them all. Whether the three varieties, regarded by Boulenger in his Catalogue (1896, p. 368) as colour-forms of *B. candidus*, and the other forms since described by Wall, are true species, or merely colour-varieties, remains to be shown. Each one is distinct from the others in colour-pattern and occupies its own restricted geographical area.

The Kraits are remarkable for the highly polished character of their scales. Wall (1908) states that "The eye is peculiar in that the iris is not coloured, and as a result the pupil cannot be discerned in life. The organ as a whole looks like a jet bead, and in this respect the snakes of this genus are nearly unique among the Colubridæ. The Lycodons alone, as far as I am aware, share this peculiarity."

The Kraits appear to vary as little in their habits as they do in morphological characters. Of the three common species, *B. cæruleus*, *B. fasciatus* and *B. multicinctus*, much has been written, and no doubt what has been recorded of them will be found equally true for the other and rarer species. In disposition they are remarkably quiet and inoffensive, and only under great provocation can they be induced to bite. *B. fasciatus* when caught seldom endeavours to escape, but throws its body into a loose coil or two and hides its head away beneath some part of it. If provoked with a stick it will give a few convulsive jerks and then hide its head again beneath some other part of its body. Wall has recorded the same habit of *B. cæruleus* and Pope of *multicinctus*.

The Kraits inhabit more or less open country and at low altitudes, seldom ascending above 3,000 or 4,000 feet, they frequent cultivated areas and are often found in and about human habitations. Their diet consists mainly of snakes, and they will devour with equal avidity both harmless and poisonous species, small mammals, lizards, frogs, toads

and fish have also been recorded as part of their diet, but they evidently do not form the chief part of their food

As far as we know, all the species are oviparous. *B. caeruleus* lays from 6-10, *B. fasciatus* from 8-11 eggs. They are deposited in holes in the ground, or under leaves, and are guarded afterwards by the parent. Very little is known of their breeding habits, which appear to be somewhat unusual. Wall (1924), writing of *B. ceylonicus*, makes the following comment — "There is evidently something strange about the breeding of Kraits as a genus, for it is a very remarkable fact that out of the large series of specimens of *ceylonicus* that have passed through my hands, I never got an egg-bound female. The same remark applies to the Indian Krait (*caeruleus*), scores of which have been sent to me, and to the Banded Krait (*fasciatus*), dozens of which have been collected by and for me in Assam and Burma. It would seem, therefore, the adults (*ceylonicus*) retire about September to mate, and do not dissolve their matrimonial relationship until the young are launched upon the world in March."

Compared with the Cobra and the Saw-scaled Viper, fatalities resulting from bite by the Kraits are rare.

Key to the Species

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Scales in 13 rows | | |
| Terminal caudal scutes in pairs | | <i>flaviceps</i> , p 410 |
| Scales in 15 rows. | | |
| I Terminal caudal scutes in pairs . . | | <i>bungaroides</i> , p 410. |
| II Caudals entire throughout | | |
| A Vertebrae not or but feebly enlarged | | |
| Uniform black above, C 35-43 | | <i>lividus</i> , p 418 |
| B Vertebrae strongly enlarged, as broad as or broader than long | | |
| a Tail ending in a point, dorsal vertebrae not forming a ridge down the back | | |
| 1 Belly uniformly white, C 37-56 | | |
| Back uniformly black above, C 49-56 | | <i>niger</i> , p 417 |
| Back with narrow white cross-bars arranged more or less distinctly in pairs | | <i>caeruleus</i> , p 413 |
| Back with 27-48 white cross-bars, not arranged in pairs | | [p 416
<i>multicinctus</i> , |
| Back with 20-25 broad white cross-bars, the median part of each bar spotted with black | | <i>candidus</i> , p 416 |
| Back with 11-14 very broad, white, black-spotted cross-bars . . . | | [p 417
<i>maculatus</i> , |
| 2 Belly with black marks or cross-bars, sometimes absent in the juvenile, C 32-42 | | <i>ceylonicus</i> , p 415. |
| b Tail ending obtusely, dorsal vertebrae forming a ridge down the back | | |
| Alternately marked with black and yellow annuli | | <i>fasciatus</i> , p 411. |

Scales in 17-19 rows

Back with narrow white cross-bars, arranged more or less distinctly in pairs, a series of white vertebral spots, at least anteriorly

cærulcus, p 413

Back with narrow white cross-bars or transverse series of small spots, not arranged in pairs, no vertebral spots

walki, p 418

308. *Bungarus bungaroides*.

Elaps bungaroides Cantor, 1839, P Z. S p 33 (Cheira Pungi, Khasi Hills, London, col sketch in Bodleian Library, no 4) — *Xenurelaps bungaroides*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 345, Jerdon P A S Bengal, 1870, p 82, Blanford, J A S. Bengal, xlviii, 1879, p 131 — *Bungarus bungaroides*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 389, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 370, Selater, J A S Bengal, ix, 1891, p 246, Wall, J Bombay N H S xix, 1909, p 355, and xxx, 1924, p 24, and Poiss Sn Ind 1928, p 13, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlii, 1940, p 484 Shaw & others, J. Bengal, N H S xvi, 1942, p 120

Scales in 15 rows throughout V 220-237, C 44-51, all paired, or a few of the anterior scutes single

Black or very dark brown, with white or pale yellowish transverse lines, or narrow bars, formed of a series of spots across the back, those anterior are angular and point forwards, below the lines widen, forming broad bands across the belly, a white line across the snout, and a curved one on each side from the frontal shield to behind the angle of the mouth, a third from the postoculars to the lip In the adult the head markings are sometimes very indistinct

Total length ♂ 1400, tail 160; ♀ 1000, tail 130 mm

Range Eastern Himalayas (Darjeeling district, Sikkim), Assam (Khasi Hills), Cachar, Upper Burma (Matsatap and Ahke, N E of Fort Hertz)

A rare snake

309. *Bungarus flaviceps*.

YELLOW-HEADED KRAIT

Bungarus flaviceps Reinhardt, 1843, Vidensk Selsk Skrift x, p 267, pl iii, fig 4 (Java), Cantor, Cat Malay Rept 1847, p 112, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xxx, 1924, p 21, Boulenger, Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 200; De Rooij, Rept Indo-Aust Archipel ii, 1917, p 245; Smith, Bull Raffles Mus no 3, 1930, p 67, Cochran, Proc. U S Nat Mus lxxvii, 1930, p 36 — *Megærophis flaviceps*, Tirant, Rept Cochinchine, 1885, p 33, Selater, J A S Bengal, ix, 1891, p 245, and List Sn Ind Mus 1891, p 57, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 392

Scales in 13 rows throughout; a distinct ridge down the back and tail formed by the spinous processes of the vertebræ V ♂ 220-236, ♀ 193-217, C ♂ 47-53, ♀ 42-54, the anterior ones single

The hemipenis differs from the typical organ (p. 407) in that the lips of the sulcus within the spinose area are quite smooth.

Black above, with an orange-yellow vertebral stripe which may be partly or completely absent, interstitial skin orange-yellow, and this colour may extend on to the scales so as to form longitudinal stripes, particularly on scale-rows 1 and 2, these stripes always distinct in the young. The black colour of the back terminates in a point on the nape, the rest of the neck and the whole of the head being orange-yellow, tail, and usually also the posterior part of the body, orange or yellow, lower parts orange or yellow, uniform or with the shields edged with brown.

Total length. ♂ 1850 tail 220 mm

Range Siam (Ratburi district); Cochín China, Tenasserim (Mergui); the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago. Tirant (1885) records two examples from Núi Dinh (Baria), Cochín China, and there does not seem any reason to doubt his identification. It has not been obtained since in French Indo-China.

310. *Bungarus fasciatus*.

BANDED KRAIT

Seba, Thes ii, 1735, pl lvm, fig 2, Russell, Ind Serp i, 1796, p 3, pl iii (Bengal)

Pseudoboa fasciata Schneider, 1801, Hist Amph ii, p 283 (based on Russell's desc and fig — *Bungarus fasciatus*, Daudin, Hist Nat Rept v, 1803, p 263, Fayrer, Thanatoph Ind 1874, p 10, pl ix, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 388, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 366, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 198; Primrose, J Bombay N. H. S xii, p 589, Wall & Evans, ibid xiii, 1900, p 344, Wall, ibid xix, 1909, p 835, and xx, 1911, p 933, col pl. and xxx, 1924, p 22, and Pois Sn Ind 1928, p 14, Evans, J Bombay N. H. S xvi, 1905, p 519, O A Smith, ibid xxi, 1911, p 283, Kinnear, ibid xxii, 1913, p 635, Martin, ibid same page; M A Smith, J. Nat Hist Soc Siam, i, 1915, p 177, photo, De Rooij, Rept Indo-Aust Archipel 1917, p 243, Masson, J Bombay N. H. S xxxiv, 1930, p 256, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 332, pl 15, Bourret, Serp Indochine, ii, 1936, p 385 Shaw & others, J, Bengal N. H. S. xvi, 1942, p 116

Bungarus annularis Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept v, p 265, pl v (based on Russell's pl.)

Bungarus fasciatus insularis Mell, 1930, Sitz Ges nat Fr Berlin, p 325 (Inselindien)

Bungarus fasciatus bifasciatus Mell, 1930, Sitz Ges nat Fr Berlin, p 325 (Yao-shan, Kwangsi Prov, China)

Scales in 15 rows throughout. A prominent ridge down the back and tail formed by the spinous processes of the vertebrae, tail ending bluntly, usually more or less swollen at the tip. V 200-234; C 23-39.

Alternately banded with black or purplish-black, and yellow or buff, the black bands being as broad as their interspaces or

a little broader, a large black mark on the nape continued in a point on the head to between the eyes, and bordered on each side by yellow. the rest of the top of head brown with yellow mottlings sometimes the yellow bands have a median stippling of black sometimes the black bands are not complete below. in specimens from the Malay Peninsula the yellow bands are very pale, sometimes almost white

Length · specimens over 1800 mm in length are rare One

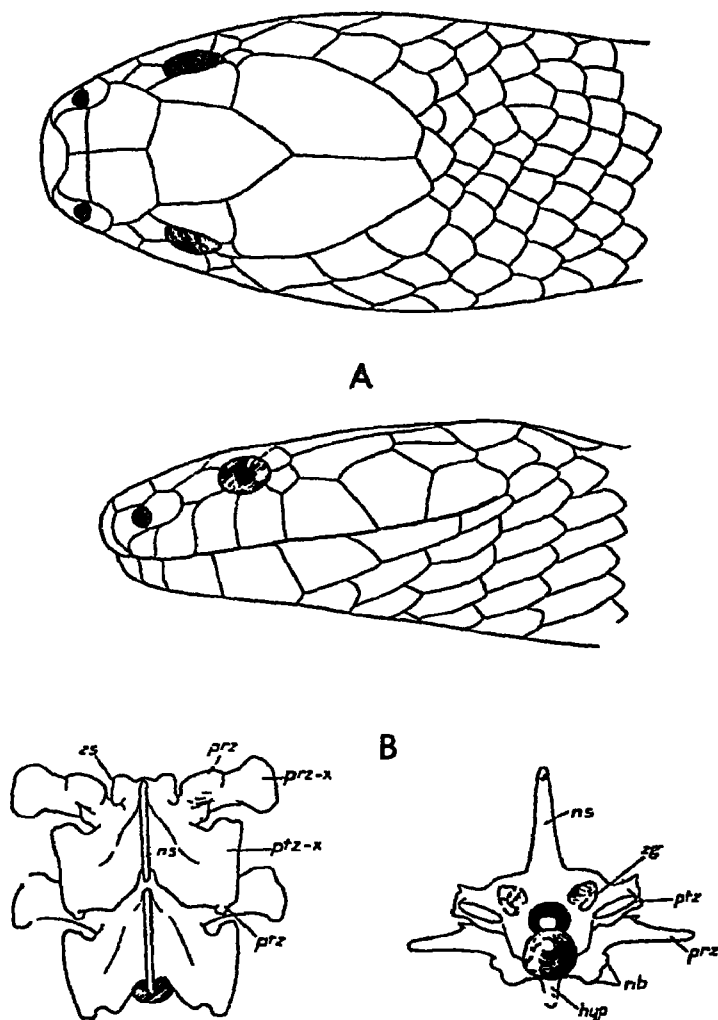


Fig 133 —A Dorsal and lateral views of head of *Bungarus caeruleus* (B.M 93 1 14 11) B Dorsal and hind views of vertebrae of *B. fasciatus*

hyp, hypapophysis, *ns*, neural spine; *prz*, prezygapophysis, *prz-x*, prezygapophysial expansion, *ptz*, postzygapophysis, *ptz-x*, postzygapophysial expansion, *zg*, zygantrum, *zb*, facets for ribs

recorded by me from Siam measured 2020 mm in total length, tail 150 mm., O. A. Smith (1911) records one 7 feet long (2125 mm)

Range The whole of the Indo-Chinese subregion, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago, Southern China. In the Indian Peninsula it is confined to the north-east, Kinnear (1913) records it from as far south as Hyderabad, and Stone (1922) from Oudh in the United Provinces, Wall (1930) records it from the Godavari and Mahanadi Valley, Bihar and Orissa

The Banded Krait is not uncommon in the Indo-Chinese subregion, frequenting the plains and open country, often in the vicinity of human habitations. It has been obtained in Burma at an altitude of 5,000 feet

The marked vertebral ridge of this snake has earned for it in Siam the name of 'ngu sam liem,' the triangular snake

Col Evans (1905) records the brooding habits of this snake. The eggs measured 2.5×1.5 mm in size, and the hatchlings 320-340 mm in length

Wall (1909) records that a bullock bitten by a Banded Krait died "about 20 minutes or so later." On the other hand (1911) he states that the toxicity of the venom by direct experiment has been estimated to be 7 to 14 times less than that of cobra venom, and that most of the Burmese affirm that the Banded Krait is not poisonous. There are no authentic records of human beings having been bitten

311. *Bungarus caeruleus*.

COMMON INDIAN KRAIT.

Russell, Ind Serp 1, p 2, pl 1 (Vizagapatam).

Pseudoboa caerulea Schneider, 1801, Hist Amphib ii, p 284 (based on Russell) — *Bungarus caeruleus*, Boulenger, F. B. I 1890, p 388 (in part), and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 368; Fayer, Thanotoph Ind 1874, p 11, pl x; Cholmondeley, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 921, Pitman, ibid xxvi, 1919, p 636, Prater, ibid xxvi, 1919, p 684; O. A. Smith, ibid. xxi, p 283; Wall, ibid xviii, 1907, pp 101 and 716, col pl viii, figs 1, 2, 3, 5, and xxii, 1913, pp 19, 401, maps, and xxii, 1914, p 808, and xxvi, 1919, p 575, and Pois Sn Ind. 1928, p 11, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 437, Ingoldby, J Bombay N. H. S. xxix, 1923, p 130, Schmidt, Pub Field Mus N. H. (Zool) xii, 1926, p 172, Murphy, J Bombay N H S. xxxiii, 1929, p 722; Fraser, ibid xxxix, 1937, p 486

Boa lineata Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool iii, p 356 (based on Russell)

Bungarus arcuatus Dum & Bib 1854, Exp. Gén vii, p 1272 (India: Paris)

Bungarus sindanus Boulenger, 1897, J. Bombay N H S xi, p 73, pl (Sind - London), Pitman, ibid xxii, 1913, p 636; Wall, ibid xvii, p 68, and xviii, 1908, p 716, and xx, 1911, p 1041, and xxii, 1913, pp 402 and 808, Ingoldby, ibid xxix, 1923, p 130

Bungarus candidus, Wall, 1907, J Bombay N H. S. xviii, p 122, and xxx, 1924, p 22 (in part), Prater, ibid xxx, 1924, p 174.

Bungarus candidus caeruleus, Bourret, 1936, Serp Indochine, p 389

Scales in 15 or 17 rows V. 194-234; C 42-52.

Black or bluish-black above with narrow white cross-bars, usually arranged more or less distinctly in pairs, they are least distinct on the anterior part of the body and may be entirely absent there. In the young the bands are complete, in old individuals they are composed of a series of connected spots, usually a particularly large spot being on the vertebral region, on the sides of the body the bars may or may not widen, a white preocular spot usually present. upper lip and lower parts white.

Two forms of colour pattern can be distinguished —

I The transverse bars are narrow and do not, or do not greatly, widen on the sides of the body, there are no vertebral spots

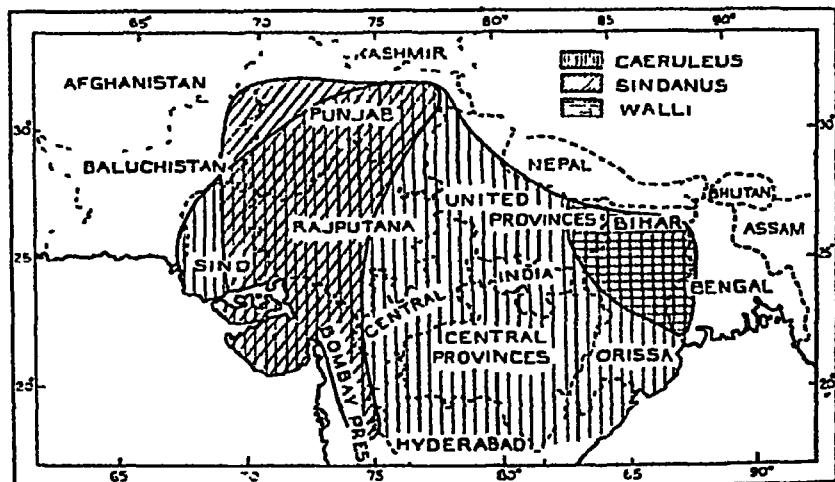


Fig. 134 — Map showing distribution of *Bungarus caeruleus* (S India not included), *B. sindanus* and *B. walli*.

II The transverse bars are always distinct and widen on the sides of the body, a vertebral spot is always present. All the specimens of *sindanus* that I have seen show this form.

Variation A specimen from Sholapur, Bombay Presidency (17 scale-rows), has no cross-bars but has a series of white vertebral spots only. Another, from Yeravala, Poona dist (15 scale-rows) is uniform dark brown in colour above, except for a thin white line extending along scale-rows 2 and 3 for the greater part of the body.

Wall has shown that *B. sindanus* is not specifically distinct from *B. caeruleus*. The former, with 17 scale-rows at mid-body, occurs chiefly in the desert regions of Sind and Rajputana, where it is said to be common, but not to the exclusion of the

typical form The range of the two forms is shown in the accompanying map.

Six specimens from the Andaman Islands have the following characters —Scales in 15 rows throughout V 192–200, C 40–46. Black above, with narrow white equidistant cross-bars, 40–46 in number, on the body, these are equally distinct throughout the body, and have no vertebral spots. All the specimens are juvenile or half-grown.

Total length 1200, tail 150 mm. Specimens up to 5 feet in length have been recorded, but they are rare. In the northern parts of India it grows larger than in the south.

According to Wall the male grows to a larger size than the female.

Eggs are laid in April and May, and the young emerge during May, June and July. At birth they measure 260–280 mm in length, they grow nearly a foot in the first year of life, and another foot or more in the second and third (Wall).

Range. India, as shown in the map, Ceylon. Common in many parts of India.

Wall (1928) writes. "Though essentially a snake of the plains, I have obtained it in Almora at an altitude of 5,400 feet, and have other records exceeding 5,000 feet. It is very rare in Ceylon. It is the only Krait found in Peninsular India south of the Ganges Basin."

312. *Bungarus ceylonicus*

CEYLON KRAIT, KARAWALA

Bungarus ceylonicus Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 344 (Ceylon, London), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 384, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 367, Green, Spol Zeyl 1905, p 158, Wall, ibid vii, 1911, p 157, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 451, figs, and Spol Zeyl xi, 1921, p 402, and ibid xii, 1924, p 86, and J Bombay N. H S xxx, 1924, p 22, and Pois Sn India, 1928, p 17.

Scales in 15 rows throughout V 219–236, C 32–42.

Black above, with from 15–21 white cross-bars which are narrow on the vertebral line and widen on the sides of the body, in the young they are well defined, but in the adult are broken up into spots and often indistinct, lower parts uniform white in the juvenile, alternately black and white in the adult. Hinder part of head white in the young.

Total length 1000, tail 95 mm.

The young when born measure 230–260 mm in length.

Range. Peculiar to Ceylon, where it is common. Found generally in hilly districts but at no great altitude, seldom ascending above 3,000 feet.

313 *Bungarus multicinctus*.

MANY-BANDED KRAIT

Bungarus multicinctus Blyth, 1861, J A S Bengal, xxix, p 98 (Amoy type lost), Wall, Poiss Sn Ind 1928, p 11, and J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 715, col pl viii, fig. 4, and xxx, 1924, p 23, Symms, *ibid* xlii, 1940, p 199 — *Bungarus multicinctus multicinctus*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 335

Bungarus cæruleus, Stoliczka, 1870, J A S Bengal, xxix, p 209, Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 388, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 368

Bungarus candidus multicinctus, Bourret, 1936, Serp Indochine, p 390

Scales in 15 rows throughout V 209–228, C 44–54, for specimens from the Indo-Chinese region

Black or bluish-black above, with from 27–48 white cross-bars on the body and 7–13 on the tail, they usually expand laterally, and on the fore-part of the body are farther apart from one another than on the hinder part, the median portion of each bar may be spotted with black. Head dark brown or black above, upper lip and lower parts white, tail below mottled and marked with dark brown.

Variation A juvenile (Brit Mus Coll), said to have come from the Manson Mts, Tong-King, has 24 comparatively broad white cross-bars on the body and 6 on the tail, the whole of the head, except the snout, is white. Another example, in Paris, from Upper Laos, has the temporal regions white.

Total length 1100, tail 145 mm

Range Burma (Fort Hertz, Myaungina, Maymyo, Toungoo, Rangoon, Pegu), Hainan, Hong Kong and S China, Formosa

314 *Bungarus candidus*

MALAYAN KRAIT

Seba, Thes, 1735, ii, pl lxvi, fig 4

Coluber candidus Linn Mus Adolph Frid 1754, p 33, pl vii, fig 1, and Syst Nat 10th ed 1758, p 223 (India) — *Bungarus candidus*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 368 (in part), Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 715, pl viii, fig 7, and Poiss Sn Ind 1928, p 12, Boulenger, Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 199; de Rooij, Rept Indo-Austral Archipel ii, p 244; Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, vi, 1923, p 61

Bungarus semifasciatus Boie, 1827, Isis, p 552 (Java)

Bungarus cæruleus, Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 388

Scales in 15 rows throughout V 209–219, C 40–50, for specimens from the mainland of Asia

Black or bluish-black above, with from 20–25 broad white cross-bars on the body, and 7–10 on the tail, on the fore-part of the body the bars are narrower than their interspaces, on the hinder part of the body they are of about the same width;

the median portion of each white bar is spotted or speckled with black. Head black above, the nape sometimes with a light indistinct A-shaped mark, upper lip and lower parts white, tail spotted with dark brown below.

Total length 1070, tail 135 mm

Range S. E. Siam, Annam, the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, Celebes

I know of 4 specimens from the Indo-Chinese region (Sriracha, S. E. Siam, Koh Kut, an island in the gulf nearby. Thua Lun, S. of Hué, Annam, and one in the Natural History Museum, Paris, labelled Annam)

315 *Bungarus magnimaculatus*.

Bungarus caeruleus, Wall & Evans, J. Bombay N. H. S. xiii, 1900, p. 343

Bungarus caeruleus var. *magnimaculatus* Wall & Evans, 1901, J. Bombay N. H. S. xiii, p. 611 (Meiktila, Upper Burma. London)

Bungarus magnimaculatus, Wall, *ibid.* xviii, 1908, p. 715, and xxx, 1924, p. 23, and 1925, p. 820, and *Rec. Ind. Mus.* 1909, p. 147, fig., and *Pois. Sn. Ind.* 1928, pp. 11, 16

Scales in 15 rows throughout. V. 214–235, C. 40–48

Black or bluish-black above, with 11–14 very broad, light cross-bars which are as broad as, or broader than, their interspaces. The light bars are composed of an almost equal mixture of black and white, the black being confined to the central portions of the scales, the white to the margins except those of the vertebral series, in which the colours are reversed, a white preocular spot more or less distinct, lower parts white.

Total length 1300, tail 150 mm

Range Burma (Meiktila, Monywa, Hmawbi, Myingyan, Shwebo, Minbu, Pyawbwe)

316. *Bungarus niger*.

BLACK KRAIT.

Bungarus niger Wall, 1908, J. Bombay N. H. S. xviii, p. 715 (Tindharia, E. Himalayas, London), and xix, 1909, pp. 355 and 838, pl. —, figs. 4–7. and xxx, 1924, p. 23, and *Pois. Sn. Ind.* 1928, p. 17, Shaw & others, J. Bengal N. H. S. xvi, 1942, p. 119

Scales in 15 rows throughout. V. 216–231, C. 49–56

Uniform black or bluish-black above, white below, with a more or less distinct dark mottling at the bases of the ventral and subcaudal shields.

Total length 1200, tail 135 mm

Range E. Himalayas (Darjeeling district), Assam (Dibrugarh, Sadiya, Sibsagar and Garo Hills)

317. *Bungarus lividus*.

LESSER BLACK KRAIT

Bungarus lividus Cantor, 1839, P Z S, p 32 (Assam, col sketch in Bodleian Library, no. 1); Boulenger, F. B I 1890, p 389, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 370, Sclater, J. A S Bengal, ix, 1891, p. 246, Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 714, and xix, 1909, pp 355 and 838, pl —, fig 8, and xxi, 1911, p 281, and xxx, 1924, p 23, Shaw & others, J Bengal N H S xvi, 1942, p 118

Scales in 15 rows throughout, the vertebral series not or but feebly enlarged, not broader than long in the middle of the body, shaped like the adjacent scales V 209–221, C 35–43

Colour as in *niger*

Total length ♂ 1020 tail 120 mm

Range Bengal (Rungpore, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts), Assam (Dibrugarh)

As there has been confusion between this and the preceding species, the records of localities given here are only for those specimens that I have examined

318 *Bungarus walli*.

WALL'S KRAIT.

Bungarus walli Wall, 1907, J Bombay N H S. xvii, p 608, pl — (Fyzabad, U P., London), and xviii, 1907, p 122, and xix, 1908, p 268, and xxx, 1924, p 24, and Pois Sn Ind 1928, p 20. Cholmondeley, J. Bombay N H S. xviii, 1908, p 921

Bungarus sindanus, Annandale, 1905, J A. S Bengal, p 213

Bungarus caeruleus, Rimmell, 1931, J Bombay N. H S xxxiv, p 1083

Scales in 21 or 19 19 or 17 17 rows. V 196–208, C 50–55.

Bluish-black above, with narrow white transverse bars, 65–80 in number, formed by series of small spots, upper lip and lower parts white, tail below suffused with brown, no light preocular spot

Total length ♂ 1640, tail 190, ♀ 1500, tail 190 mm

Range U.P (Fyzabad), Bengal (Midnapore), Bihar & Orissa (Purnea, Gaya, *vide* Wall)

Genus CALLOPHIS.

CORAL SNAKES.

Calliophis Gray, 1834, Ill Ind Zool ii, pl. lxxxvi, fig 1 (type *gracilis*) — *Calliophis*, Günther, P. Z S 1859, p 79; Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 383, and Cat Sn Brit. Mus iii, 1896, p 396

Brachyrhynchus Fitzinger (not of Laporte, 1832), 1843, Syst. Rept p 28 (type *Elaps calligaster* Wiegmann)

Hemibungarus Peters, 1862, Mon Akad Berlin, p 637 (type *calligaster*), Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p. 392, Stejneger, Herpet Japan, 1907, p. 387.

Maxillary bone extending forwards beyond the palatine,

poison fangs followed after an interval by from 0-5 small teeth Head not distinct from neck, head shields normal, no loreal, nostril between two nasals, pupil round Body cylindrical, elongate, of almost equal diameter throughout Scales smooth, subequal, in 13 or 15 rows throughout Tail short, subcaudals paired, sometimes unpaired in *maccllellandi*

Closely related to *Bungarus*, from which it is probably derived

Range India, Indo-China; China, Japan, the Philippine Islands, 12 or 13 species are recognized

Callophis has been separated from *Hemibungarus* on the presence or absence of teeth on the maxillary bone behind the poison fangs A critical examination of the species of *Callophis*, said to have none, however, shows that all of them, except *gracilis* and *maccllellandi*, possess teeth I therefore unite the two genera

Very little is known of the habits of the Indian Coral Snakes. They are of timid disposition and nocturnal in their movements, often found by day half buried in the earth beneath fallen timber, or among leaves Their main food appears to be snakes

Elaps malabaricus Jerdon, J A S Bengal, xxii, 1853, p 522, is not recognizable from the description It has been referred, with doubt, to *Callophis*

Wall, in his 'Poisonous Snakes of India,' ed iv, p 22, includes the closely allied genus *Dohophis* (the *Adenophis* of Boulenger, F B I p 386) in the Indian fauna I do not know of any authentic records of the occurrence of this Malayan genus, now known as *Maticora*, within the area covered by this work

Key to the Species.

Scales in 13 rows

I 1 pre- and 2 postoculars

A 6 supralabials *melanurus*, p 420

B 7 supralabials

a One very long temporal shield in contact with 3 labials

1 Preocular touching nasal

V 174-203, C 21-31 *maculiceps*, p 420

V 285, C 27 *hughii*, p 421

V 234-251, C. 32-44 *nigrescens*, p 422

2 Preocular separated from nasal

V 212-221, C. 33-34 *beddomei*, p. 423

b Temporals 1+1, the anterior shield in contact with 2 labials [p 423.

maccllellandi,

II No preocular, 1 postocular *bibrans*, p. 425

Scales in 15 rows

V. 184, C 31 *kelloggi*, p 426

319. *Callophis melanurus*

SLENDER CORAL SNAKE

Russell, Ind Serp 1, 1796, p 12, pl viii (Nerva, Bengal London).
Coluber melanurus Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool iii, p 552 (based on Russell's pl)

Vipera trimaculata Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vi, p 25 (based on Russell) — *Callophis trimaculatus*, Gunther, P Z S 1859, p 83, pl xvi, fig E, and Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 350, Phipson, J Bombay N H Soc ii, 1887, p 248, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 384, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 397, D'Abreu, Sn Nagpur, 1916, p 36, and J Bombay N H S xxi, 1913, p 634, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 497, and Pois Sn Ind 1928, p 33, fig head, and J Bombay N H S xxx, 1925, p 244, Willey, Spol Zeyl i, 1903, p 84, and 1908, p 186, Fraser, J Bombay N H S xxxix, 1937, p 490, Prater, ibid xxi, 1924, p 175

Two or three minute teeth behind the poison fangs, eye small, its diameter equal to or less than its distance from the mouth, 1 preocular, in contact with the nasal, 2 postoculars, temporals 1+1, 6 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 5th and 6th in contact with the temporal 2 pairs of genials, 3, sometimes 4, infralabials, touching the anterior pair, scales in 13 rows V 249-277, C ♂ 33-37, ♀ 24-27 (India), V 229-257, C 27-37 (Ceylon), A 2

Light brown above, the centre of each scale speckled with brown, thus forming a series of longitudinal lines down the whole length of the body, head and neck black above with yellow spots, a pair on the occiput usually distinct tail with 2 black rings, one at the base, the other near the tip, yellowish below (red in life)

Total length ♂ 335, tail 22 mm

Range Bombay and Dharwar districts, Malabar, Coimbatore, Anaimalais, Bengal (Nerva), C P (Nagpur), Ceylon (Trincomalee, Matale, Tissamaharama, Balangoda) A rare snake Found in the plains and in the hills at low altitudes

When disturbed, this snake will curl its tail over its back so as to expose the red of the under-surface

The specimen which Russell described and figured in his 'Indian Serpents' is still in an excellent state of preservation (Brit Mus Coll.)

320. *Callophis maculiceps*.

SMALL-SPOTTED CORAL SNAKE

Elaps melanurus (not of Shaw) Cantor, 1847, J A S Bengal, xvi, p 1027, pl xl, fig 6

Elaps maculiceps Günther, 1858, Cat Sn Brit Mus p 232 (E Indies London) — *Callophis maculiceps*, Gunther, P Z S 1859, p 84, pl xvi, fig D, and Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 351, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 384, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 397, and Fauna Malay Pen 1912, p 204, Wall & Evans, J Bombay N H S xii, 1900, p 344, Wall, ibid xxx, 1925, p 244, and Pois Sn Ind 1928, p 34, fig head, Gyldenstolpe, Kungl Sven Vet-Akad Stockholm, lv, 1916 (3), p 26 Cochran, Proc U S

Nat Mus lxxvii, 1930, Art. II, pp 37, Bourret, Serp Indo-chine, 1936, p 403

Elaps atrofrontalis Sauvage, 1877, Bull Soc Phil Paris, (7) 1, p 111 (Cochin-China, Paris)

Callophis maculiceps var *univirgatus* Smith, 1915, J. Bombay N H S xxiii, p 786 (Nong Kai Ploi, C Siam, London)

Callophis maculiceps punctulatus Bourrett, 1934, Bull Gen Instr. Pub Hanoi, vi, p 10 (Cambodia, Paris), and Serp Indo-chine, 1936, p 405

One to three minute teeth behind the poison fangs, eye small, its diameter equal to or less than its distance from the mouth, 1 preocular in contact with the nasal, 2 postoculars; a single very long temporal shield, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 5th, 6th and 7th touching the temporal; 4 or 5 infralabials in contact with the anterior pair of genials, which are equal to, or a little longer than, the posterior pair Scales in 13 rows V ♂ 174-186, ♀ 189-203; C ♂ 25-31, ♀ 21-25, A 2

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, sulcus not divided, the tip of the organ has a number of small longitudinal folds, the middle and proximal part have three much larger ones, there are no calyces or spines

Two colour forms can be defined —

I Light brown, reddish or greyish-brown above, with small, distant, sometimes irregular black spots longitudinally arranged along each side of the back, top of head and nape black, the colour interrupted by yellow markings which are variable in size and shape, usually a yellow spot on each side of the occiput, upper lip behind the eye yellow, tail with two black rings, one at the base and the other near the tip, yellowish below (red in life), tail below pale blue or grey.

II Similar to I, but with a black vertebral stripe and no black spots on the body (*univirgatus*).

Total length ♂ 435, tail 50, ♀ 480, tail 33 mm.

Range. Burma and Siam as far north as lat 20° and south to the Malay Peninsula, Cambodia, Cochin-China

Form II is known only from Central and S E Siam.

A specimen obtained by me in Siam had just eaten a *Typhlops*

321. *Callophis hughii*

Callophis hughii Cochran, 1927, Proc. Biol. Soc Washington, x1, p 190 (Koh* Tao, Gulf of Siam, Washington), and Proc. U S Nat Mus lxxvii, 1930, Art. II, p. 37, fig head

Differs from *C maculiceps* in having more ventrals. 285, and in the uniform coloration of the back

Colour in life "reddish-brown, lighter on the belly; underside of tail light blue" Not seen by me Perhaps an island race of *maculiceps*.

* Koh = Island

322 *Callophis nigrescens*.

Callophis nigrescens Günther, 1862, Ann Mag Nat Hist (3) ix, p 131, and Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 351, pl xxiv, fig F (India, London), Theobald, Cat Rept Brit Ind 1876, p 213, Phipson, J Bombay N H S ii, 1887, p 248, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 384, Ferguson, J Bombay N H S x, 1895, p 74.—*Hemibungarus nigrescens*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 394, Wall, J. Bombay N H S xxvi, 1919, p 576, and Pois Sn Ind 1928, p 35, fig head

Callophis nigrescens var. *khandallensis* Wall, 1913, J Bombay N H S xxii, p 638 (Khandalla)

Callophis concinnus Beddome, 1863, Madras Quart J Med Sci vi, p 45, fig head (Nedivuttum, Nilgiris, London), and J Soc Bib Nat Hist i, 1940, p 310 (reprint)

Callophis pentalineatus Beddome, 1871, Madras Month J Med Sci xv, p 401 (Pirmed, Travancore Hills, London), and J Soc. Bib Nat Hist i, 1940, p 324 (reprint)

Three or four teeth behind the poison fangs Eye small, its diameter less than its distance from the mouth; one preocular in contact with the nasal, 2 postoculars, a single, very long temporal, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 5th, 6th and 7th touching the temporal, 2 pairs of subequal genials, 4 infralabials touching the anterior pair Scales in 13 rows V 234-251 C ♂ 35-44, ♀ 32-36 A usually divided

Hemipenis short, extending to the 6th caudal plate, spinose throughout, the spines being closely set and of almost equal size except at the extreme tip, where they are smaller. Starting from the base, and extending a good way up the organ on either side of the sulcus, are two longitudinal folds

Three colour forms can be defined, they are connected to one another by every gradation —

I Pale reddish or brownish above, with 5 black stripes on the body, a vertebral and two lateral pairs, and 3 on the tail, the outermost stripes being on scale-rows 1 and 2, top of head black, with light regular markings, a broad black bar on the nape, yellowish below (red in life), upper lip with black vertical marks (*pentalineatus*) Nilgiri, Anaimalai and Travancore Hills

II Light or dark purplish-brown above, with 5 black stripes edged with white, the white lines being continuous or regularly broken, the brown of the dorsum extends on to the lateral edges of the ventrals head markings as in I. Anaimalai, Nilgiri and Shevaroy Hills

III Blackish- or greenish-blue above, with 3 or 5 black stripes, not edged with white The ground colour may be so dark that the black stripes are obscured (*khandallensis*), when only 3-striped the outer pair are absent Head markings as in I, but usually less distinct (*concinnus*) The Western Ghats as far north as Panchgani

Total length ♂ 1140, tail 130 mm.

The most elongate of all the Indian species Beddome writes that it "grows to 3 feet long with a circumference of not more than a man's little finger" Wall states that it feeds entirely on other snakes, and is found only in the hills at between 3,000 and 7,000 feet altitude

323. *Callophis beddomei*, sp. nov.

Hemibungarus nigrescens, Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 384, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p. 394, var A (Shevaroy Hills, S India; London)

Differs from *nigrescens* as follows —Prefrontal in contact with the 3rd labial, separating the preocular from the nasal, fewer ventrals and subcaudals; V. 212-221; C 33-34, and in the colour pattern, which is entirely different

Light purplish-brown above, with irregularly-shaped, black, white-edged spots These are more or less regularly arranged in two vertebral series, separated from one another by a black vertebral line, or confluent with one another, two lateral series of spots and intermediate ones of much smaller size, whitish below.

Two specimens are known, both females The type was collected by Col Beddome in the Shevaroy Hills, the paratype is from Koppa, Mysore, and is in the Indian Museum, no 13559

Total length 565, tail 65 mm.

324. *Callophis maclellandi*.

MACCLELLAND'S CORAL SNAKE

Elaps maclellandi Reinhardt, 1844, Calcutta J Nat Hist iv, p 532 (Assam) —*Callophis maclellandi*, Gunther, P Z S 1861, p 219, and Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 349, Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 385, and Ann. Mus Civ Genova, (2) xiii, 1893, p 327, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 398, Acton & Knowles, Ind J Med Res ii, 1914, p 56, Annandale, Rec Ind Mus viii, 1912, p 50, Slater, List Sn Ind Mus 1891, p 56, Venning, J Bombay N. H S xx, 1910, pp 342, Wall & Evans, ibid xiii, 1901, p 612, Wall, ibid xviii, 1908, pp 333 and 780, and xix, 1909, p 356, and xxii, 1913, p 639, and xxv, 1918, p 628, col pl, and xxxi, 1926, p 566, and Pois Sn Ind 1928, p 31, fig, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 341, pl xvi; Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 406, fig head

Elaps personatus Blyth, 1855, J A S Bengal, xiii, p 298 (Assam).

Elaps univirgatus Günther, 1858, Cat Sn Brit Mus p 231 (Nepal, London) —*Callophis univirgata*, Gunther, P Z S 1859, p 83, pl xvii

Callophis annularis Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 350, pl xxiv, fig 1 (India; London)

Callophis maclellandi var *nigriventris* Wall, 1909, J Bombay N. H S xix, p 266 (Kasauli, W. Himalayas, London)

Callophis maclellandi var. *gorei* Wall, 1910, J. Bombay N. H. S. xix, p. 842 (Jaipur, Assam), and xxii, 1913, p. 639 and xxix, 1923, p. 468.

Callophis maclellandi var. *concolor* Wall, 1923, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxx, p. 820 (Huton, Kachin Hills, London)

No teeth behind the poison fangs. Diameter of the eye less than its distance from the mouth, 1 preocular in contact with the posterior nasal, 2 postoculars; temporals 1+1: 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 5th and 6th touching the anterior temporal. Two pairs of subequal genials, 3 or 4 infralabials touching the anterior pair. Scales in 13 rows. Anal divided. V. ♂ 182-212, ♀ 208-244. C. ♂ 28-36, ♀ 25-33, paired, or rarely some of them unpaired.

Hemipenis extending to the 6th-8th caudal plate forked near the tip, spinose and calyculate throughout. The spines are short, set on the margins of the calyces, and of almost equal size, except near the tip, where they are smaller.

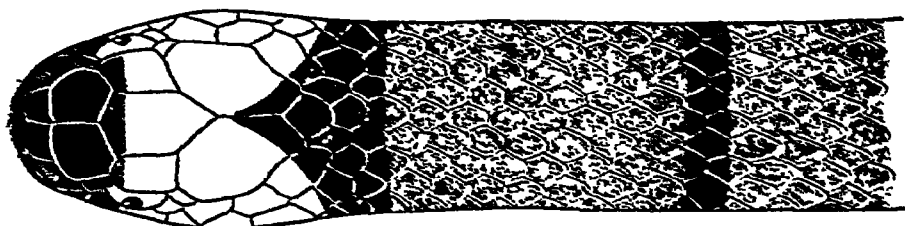


Fig. 135—*Callophis maclellandi*

There are many colour forms, but the connections between them are easily recognized.—

I. Red or brownish above, with regular, narrow, black transverse bars, which may or may not reach the belly: a series of small black spots on each side of the back between the bars may be present. head black above, except for a broad white transverse bar behind the eyes, tip of the snout often light in colour; yellowish below, with black cross-bars or quadrangular spots. The common form. Darjeeling, Assam, Burma north of the Abor country and south to the Pegu Yomas, Tong-King, Annam, S. China, Hainan, Formosa. Common in the hills of Assam.

II. Similar to I, but with a black vertebral stripe and the transverse bars restricted to the sides of the body, or absent altogether (*univirgatus*). E Himalayas as far west as Katmandu.

III. Similar to I, but with the black cross-bars reduced to transverse vertebral spots and a series of larger spots along the middle of the belly (*gorei*). Assam, Upper Burma

IV Uniformly coloured above and below, except for a black ventral stripe and three rings on the tail (*nigriventer*). Kasauli, known from the type-specimen only.

V Purplish-brown above, uniform or with 3 longitudinal series of small indistinct black spots, belly with large black subquadrangular spots (*concolor*). Two specimens are known.

Total length ♂ 635, tail 70, ♀ 780, tail 60 mm. Wall gives a total length of 812 mm.

The range of the ventral count given here, 182–244, is found in two specimens in the British Museum from Assam and Darjeeling respectively. There seems no reason, therefore, to regard the Formosan form, based on a high ventral count, as distinct.

Wall (1918) has given a good account of this snake, and his colour-plate, of what is one of the most beautiful of all the Indian snakes, is excellent. Maccllelland's Coral Snake is found only in the hills, generally at between 3,000 and 6,000 feet altitude, and in country that is well forested. In disposition it is quiet and inoffensive. It feeds chiefly on snakes. A gravid female examined by him at Shillong, in August, contained 6 eggs, the embryos partially developed, another specimen (1926), killed on July 8th at Maymyo, contained 14 eggs.

325. *Callophis bibroni*.

Elaps bibroni Jan, 1858, Rev & Mag Zool x, p 526, Prodr pl B, 1859 (India, Paris), and Icon Gen xliii, 1873, pl u, fig 1.—*Callophis bibroni*, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 386, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus iii, 1896, p. 399, Wall, J Bombay N H S. xxvi, 1919, p 577, and Poiss Sn Ind 1928, p 30, fig.

Elaps cerasinus Beddome, 1864, P Z S p 179 (Manantoddy, Malabar).—*Callophis cerasinus*, Beddome, Madras Quart J Med Sc xi, 1867, p 15, pl. u, fig 5, and J Soc Bib Nat Hist i, 1940, p 316 (reprint).

One minute tooth behind the poison fangs. Eye very small, its diameter about twice its distance from the mouth, no preocular, the prefrontal, touching the eye, 1 postocular, a single very long temporal, 7 supralabials, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 5th, 6th and 7th touching the temporal, 1st infralabial much elongated, forming a long suture with its fellow, anterior pair of genials small, much shorter than the posterior pair, in contact with the 3rd and 4th infralabials, 4th infralabial much larger than the others. Scales in 13 rows. V. 219–227, C. 25–38.

Hemipenis extending to the 7th caudal plate, spinose throughout, the spines are smaller at the tip and gradually increase in size as they reach the proximal end of the organ.

Cherry-red to dark purplish-brown above, with black cross-bars, belly red, with large black spots which may unite with

the dorsal bars and form complete bands round the body, head above, black in front, red behind

Total length ♀ 660, tail 55 mm Wall records one 775 mm. in length.

Range The Western Ghats as far north as Coorg

326. *Callophis kelloggi*.

Callophis maclellandi (not of Reinhardt), Boulenger, 1899, P Z S p 166 (Kustan, Fukien, China)

Hemibungarus kelloggi Pope, 1928, Amer Mus Nov no 320, p 6 (Chungan Hsien, Fukien Prov, S. China, New York), and Rept China, 1935, p 344, fig head

Callophis wongi Fan, 1931, Bull Dept Biol Coll Sci Sun-Yat-Sen Univ 11, p 128, fig (Loh-siang, Kwangsi Prov)

Callophis wongi tonkinensis Bourret, 1935, Bull Gen Instr Pub. Hanoi, April, p 267 (Tam-dao, Tong-King, Paris - not seen by me), and Serp Indochine, 1936, p 411, fig head

Like *maclellandi* in general scalation, differing as follows — Diameter of the eye equal to its distance from the mouth, temporals 1+2 Scales in 15 rows; V 184, C 31

Reddish-brown above, with 17+8 narrow black cross-bars, faintly edged with white, pale orange below, with large squarish or angular black spots, mesially placed but not reaching the borders of the ventrals, they correspond in position with the dorsal bars head black above, with a light crescentic mark across the snout in front of the eyes, and a Λ-shaped one on the back of the head, its apex on the frontal, the arms extending to behind the mouth

Pope has placed *wongi* under *kelloggi*. The description of *tonkinensis* differs slightly in colour pattern from that given for *kelloggi*, but agrees entirely with the individual recorded by Boulenger under *maclellandi* from Fukien, and which Pope has placed, and rightly, under *kelloggi*. The scale counts are from the Tong-King specimen. They differ from the Chinese which are given by Pope as V 191-202, C 29-38

Genus NAJA.

COBRAS.

Naja Laurenti, 1768, Syn Rept p. 90 (type *Coluber naja* Linn)
Uræus Wagler, 1830, Nat Syst Amphib p 173 (type *Coluber haje* Linn)

Aspis Wagler, 1 c s p 173 (non Laurenti, 1768) (type *Naja naja*)

Tommyris Eichwald 1831, Zool Spec in, p 171 (type *oxiana*)

Hamadryas (non Hubner, 1806) Cantor, 1836, Asiat Res xix, p 87 (type *hannah*)

Dendraspis Fitzinger, 1843, Syst. Rept. p 28 (type *bungarus*)

Pseudohaje Günther, 1858, Cat Col Sn Brit Mus p 222 (type *nigra*)

Ophiophagus Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 341 (type *elaps*) —

Maxillary bone extending forwards beyond the palatine;

poison fangs followed by from 1-3 small teeth Head not very distinct from neck, dilatable in the Asiatic species, the anterior ribs being elongate Eye moderate, pupil round Nostril between an anterior and a posterior nasal ; head shields normal, except the loreal, which is absent Scales smooth, disposed obliquely, in from 13-25 rows on the body , subcaudals usually paired

Range Southern Asia and Malaysia ; Africa.

Some 12 species are known, two inhabit the Oriental Region

Key to the Species.

Scales in 19-25 rows ; no occipital shields . . . *naja*, p. 427
Scales in 15 rows ; a pair of large occipital shields .. *hannah*, p 436

327. *Naja naja*.

INDIAN COBRA , COBRA

Naja naja naja

- Russell, Ind Serp 1, 1796, pls v and vi, and ii, 1801, pls i and xxxvi.
Coluber naja, Linn. 1758, Syst Nat 10th ed p 221, based on Seba, Thes 1, 1734, pl 44, figs 1 and ii, pls 85, fig 1, and 89, figs 1-4, and 90, figs 1-2, and 97, figs 1-4 (habitat in India), Andersson, Kungl Sv Vet -Akad Handl xxiv, 1899, 4, p 17 — *Naja naja*, Prater, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1924, p 175, Wall, ibid 1925, pp 242 and 820, and xxxi, 1926, p 565, and Pois Sn Ind 1928, p 23, Anon, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1925, p 705, Leigh, ibid xxxi, 1926, p 227; Tscherbakoff, ibid. xxxviii, 1935, p 321, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 394; Smith, J Nat Hist Soc Siam, xi, 1937, p 62, Barker, J Darjeeling N H S xi, 1936, p 81, Inglis, ibid 1937, p 118
Naja lutrescens Laurenti, 1768, Syn Rept p 91 (India, based on Seba, i, pl 44, fig 1)
Naja fasciata Laurenti, l c s p 91 (India, based on Seba, ii, pl 89, fig 3)
Naja siamensis Laurenti, l c s p 91 (Siam, based on Seba, ii, pl 89, figs 1-2)
Naja maculata Laurenti, l c s p 91 (India, based on Seba, ii, pl 90, fig 2)
Coluber caecus Gmelin, 1788, Syst Nat 1, p 1104 (India ; based on Seba, ii, pl 90, fig 1)
Coluber rufus Gmelin, l c s p 1105 ("Brazil", based on Seba, ii, pl 89, fig 4)
Naja tripudians Merrem, 1820, Tent Syst Amphib p 144 (subst. name for *C. naja* Linn), Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 338, Fayrer, Thanatoph Ind 1874, pls i to vi, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 391, fig, and Cat Sn Brit Mus, iii, 1896, p 380, and Rept Malay Pen 1912, p 201, Brook-Fox, J Bombay N H S xvi, 1905, p 369, Bannerman, ibid xvi, 1905, pp 363, 638, and ibid xvii, 1907, p 1031, Bannerman & Pocha, ibid xxi, 1912, p 1337, Wall, ibid xvii, 1908, p 126, and xix, 1909, p 355, and xxii, 1913, p 243, col pl and p 550, and xxvi, 1919, p 575, and xxviii, 1922, p 553, pls hood patterns, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 459, Barnard, Spol Zeyl. vi, 1910, p 174; Bobeau, ibid 1913, p 16; Smith, J. Nat Hist Soc Siam, i, 1914, p 179, photos, Acton & Knowles Ind J Med Res

- 1914, p 46, Levett-Yeats, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxiv, 1916, p 371, O'Brien, *ibid* xxix, 1923, p 303, Charpurey, *ibid* xxxiv, 1931, p. 1085, and xxxvi, 1932, p 273, Miller & Pagden, Nature, 1931, p 706, Jennison, P. Z. S. 1931, p 1413, Fraser, J. Bombay N. H. S., xxxix, 1937, p 488
Naja naja col. var. *polycellata* Deraniyagala, 1939, Ceylon J. Sci. B, xxi, p 233, photo (Polonnaruwa, N. Central Prov., Ceylon, London)

Naja naja kaouthia

- Naja kaouthia* Lesson in Ferussac, 1831, Bull. Sci. Nat. xv, p 122, and in Belang Voy. Ind. Orient. Rept., Sept. 1832, p 312, pl. 2 (Bengal) — *Naja naja kaouthia*, Smith, Rec. Ind. Mus. xlii, 1940, p 485
Naja tripudians var. *fasciata* (not of Laurenti) Hardw. & Gray 1834, Ill. Ind. Zool. ii, p 78 (Dum-dum, Bengal, Hardwicke's sketch no 175)
Naja larvata Cantor, 1839, P. Z. S. p 32 (Calcutta, Assam, coloured sketch in Bodleian Library, no 14)
Naja atra Cantor, 1842, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. ix, p 482 (Chusan Island) — *Naja naja atra*, Stejneger, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. no 58, 1907, p 394, Ponce. Rept. China, 1935, p 348, pl. xvi, figs c, d and e
Naja tripudians var. *scopinucha* Cope, 1859, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. p 343 (Canton River)
Naja tripudians, Stoliczka, J. A. S. Bengal, 1870, p 212, Flower, P. Z. S. 1899, p 690; Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xviii, 1908, p 330, and *ibid* xix, 1910, p 840
Naja tripudians var. *unicolor* Martens, 1876, Preuss. Exp. Ost. As., Zool. i, p 382 (China and Sumatra)
Naja tripudians var. *viridis* Wall, 1913, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxi, p 247 (Burma)
Naja tripudians var. *sagittifera* Wall, 1913, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxi, p 248 (Andaman Islands)

Naja naja oxiana

- Tommyris oxiana* Eichwald, 1831, Zool. Spec. iii, p 171 (Transcaspia), and Faun. Casp.-Cauc., 1841, p 104, pl. xx — *Naja oxiana*, Boulenger, Tr. Zool. Soc. (2) i, 1889, p 103, pl. xi, fig. 2
Naja tripudians, Stoliczka, J. A. S. Bengal, xxxix, 1870, p 211; Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xix, 1910, p 1001, fig., and xx, 1911, p 1042, and xxi, 1911, p 141
Naja naja, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, p 204.

Under the typical form are listed a large number of references that deal with the species in general and not with any particular race.

Poison fangs followed by a small tooth, sometimes absent. Eye moderate, its diameter equal to or a little less than its distance from the mouth, nostril large, vertically elliptic; frontal usually longer than broad, with truncate anterior margin, internasals as long as or a little shorter than the prefrontals, 1 preocular, usually in contact with the internasal, 3, rarely 2, postoculars, 7 supralabials, 3rd highest, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, temporals 2+3, 4th and 5th infralabials largest, usually with a small triangular scale*

* The cuneate scale of Wall

between them on the oral margin, two pairs of genials, the anterior a little larger than the posterior, in contact with 4 infralabials, posterior pair partly or completely separated by a scale. Scales smooth, oblique, the outer 2 or 3 rows larger than the others.

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, forked opposite the 7th, it is divided into three areas, which are fairly abruptly defined from one another, namely a proximal one beset with minute spines, a median one with very much larger spines, and a distal calyculate area, the cups being poorly developed and having spinose edges. The median area is further interrupted by a narrow, transverse, smooth area, which does not, however, intercept the sulcus or its two adjacent longitudinal ridges.

Total length 1350 to 1500, tail about 230 mm. Many larger specimens have been recorded, but they are rare. Wall

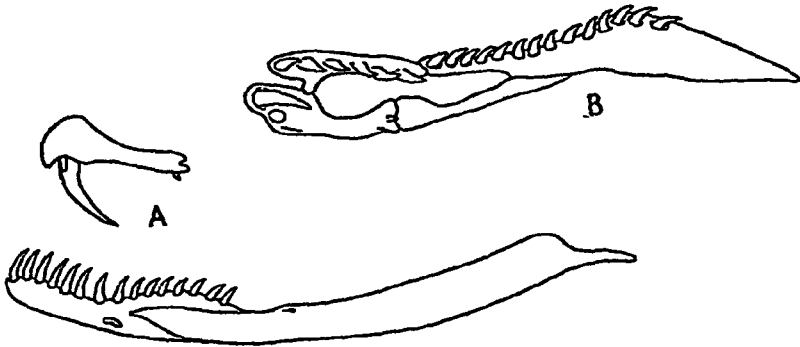


Fig 136—*Naja naja*

A. Maxilla and mandible B Palato-maxillary arch

(1913, p 248) mentions one from Ceylon which was 7 feet in length. It appears to be the record. There is no marked difference in size between the sexes.

Several attempts have been made to define races for the Indian Cobra, none with entire success. Boulenger's varieties (Cat III, p 381) ignore geographical distribution. Wall, utilizing scale-counts, has divided the asiatic mainland form into five races (Handlist Sn Ind Emp, 1925), and my own counts, based largely on the same material, agree closely with his. They are summed up in the table. It will be seen that the highest body-count occurs in Ceylon, and that there is a gradual reduction in the number of scale-rows as the species extends north in the Peninsula of India. From northern India, through Indo-China to China, the difference is slight. The overlap between the areas is considerable. The greatest

reduction in scale-rows takes place in the Malayan region, the Bornean form having only 15 at mid-body

The enormous amount of variation, both in coloration and in colour pattern, which is found in Cobras, even in individuals from the same district, is well known, the variation from youth to age is also considerable, the tendency being for the markings to become obliterated as age progresses. Individuals which have light or dark bands, cross-bars, variegations or reticulations upon the body are fairly common, and do not appear to be restricted to any particular area. They are more common in India than in Indo-China. Any attempt to define races on general coloration is hopeless. The pattern upon the hood, however, is, with certain reservations, constant, definite types can be distinguished, and they can be correlated with geographical distribution. Many departures from the typical

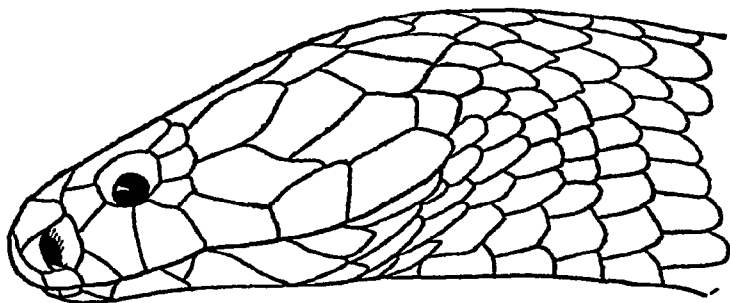


Fig 137 —*Naja naja*

picture, through disintegration of the pattern, will be found, but the stages which have led up to them can be traced, many individuals also, even juveniles, have no markings at all. A racial arrangement of the species, based on hood pattern, seems, therefore, to offer a better solution than one based on scale-counts, for it is in accordance with natural faunal areas.

Three types of hood pattern can be defined, namely, the well-known "spectacled" or binocellate form, inhabiting the whole of the Peninsula of India (*forma typica*), an O-shaped or monocellate form, ranging from Western Bengal across Indo-China into China (*kaouthia*), and a barred form found in the extreme north-west of India and extending into Transcaspia (*oxiana*).

In the following descriptions only the coloration of the young is given, for only in them can any constancy be found.

TABLE OF SCALE-COUNTS.

		Neck	Body.	Vent	Caud.
<i>Forma typica</i>	{ Ceylon	31-35	23-25	176-200	54-65
	{ India S. of Lat. 20	27-35	21-25	182-188	55-75
	{ India N. of Lat 20	25-31	21-23	176-189	48-61
<i>N n kaouthia</i>	{ Bengal, Indo-China, China }	25-31	19-21	164-196	43-58
<i>N n oriana</i>	{ N F W P and adjacent areas }	23-27	21-23	180-213	62-75

Naja naja naja.

25-35 scales across the neck, 21-25 at mid-body, 17 or 15 in front of the vent V. 176-200, C 48-75.

Young.—Yellowish or brownish to black above, with or without a black and white, or black and yellow, "spectacle" mark on the hood; a black spot on the lower surface of the hood on each side, and 2 or 3 broad black cross-bars on the belly behind the hood.

Range Ceylon and Peninsular India, the northern limits of its range are shown in the map (p 434)

Specimens from Ceylon and Southern India are usually light or dark brown in colour above, with pale reticulations, chiefly confined to the interstitial skin, the spectacle mark on the hood is usually well defined. Black Cobras in the south are rare, and in Ceylon are said to be absent.

North of lat 20° the mark on the hood is subject to greater variation and black Cobras are common. Bannerman (1905), reporting on 77 Cobras captured in Guna district, C.I., states that all except two were black and had no markings on the hood. A black or blackish Cobra, with the spectacle mark more or less complete, is the commonest form in the United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, and Bengal.

Naja naja kaouthia.

25-31 scales on the neck, 19-21, usually 21, on the body; 17 or 15 in front of the vent. V. 164-196; C 43-58.

Young.—Olivaceous or brownish to black above, with or without a yellow or orange-coloured, O-shaped, or monocellate mark upon the hood, a black spot on the lower surface of the hood on either side, and one or two broad black cross-bar the belly behind it. The rest of the belly is usually same colour as the back.

Range Bengal and the Eastern Himalayas as far west as Nepal, the whole of Indo-China as far north as the Triangle in Upper Burma, southern China. The western limits of its range are shown in the map, in the plains of Bengal it reaches to about longitude 87°, but farther west in the north, the specimens found in the United Provinces and Bihar are possibly migrants from the Eastern Himalayas, an area which faunistically belongs to Indo-China.

Juveniles from Bengal, Assam, Tong-King and southern China are usually black at birth and have a more or less distinct

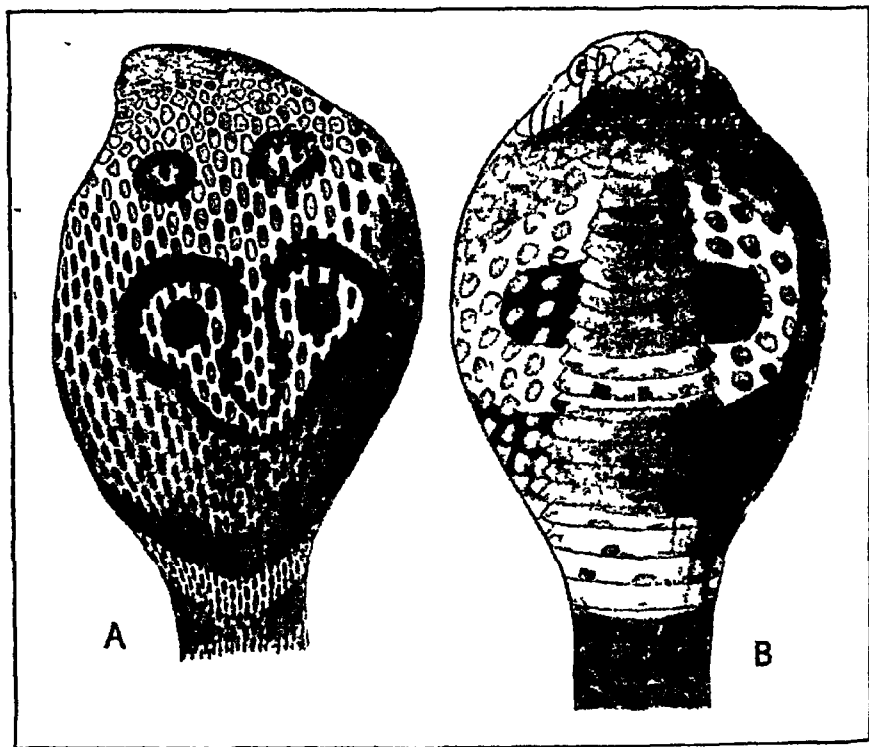
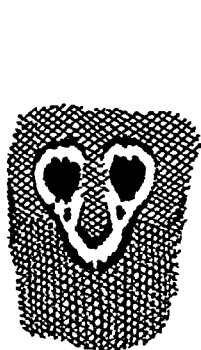


Fig 138—*Naja naja* A, B Dorsal and ventral views of col var *polyocellata* (Ceylon) with hood expanded Hood patterns of C. *Forma typica* (Travancore) D *Forma typica* (Anaimalai Hills) E (United Provinces) F, G, H *N. n. laouthia* (Bangkok) I. *N. n. laouthia* (N Siam) J. *N. n. laouthia* (Hanoi) K *N. n. oxiana* (Chitral)

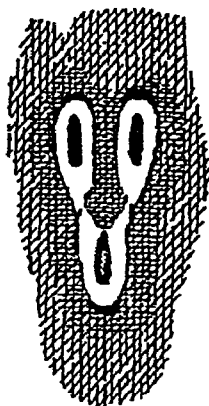
“monocle” upon the hood. As age advances they become paler, and when adult are brownish or olivaceous. The reverse—that is, the individual becoming darker with age—is never the case.

Wall (1913) mentions bright green or blue Cobras that have been seen in the Khasi Hills, in the Ruby Mines district,

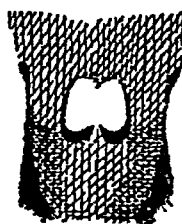
Burma, and at Nan in N Siam, but has not seen one himself. At Den Chai, south of Lampang, N. Siam, I caught a young



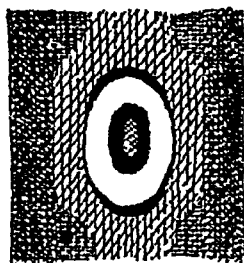
C



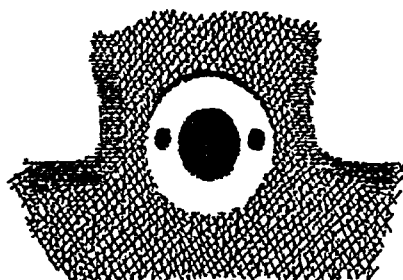
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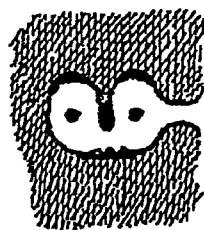
G



H



I



J



K

Naja naja (For lettering see opposite page)

specimen, 485 mm in length, that was pale olive-greenish in colour. The greenness was pronounced, and gave one the

impression, on first seeing it, that it was a green Cobra. It is now in the British Museum.

The Andaman form is black or dark brown in colour when young, with a monocellate mark upon the hood, and irregular and conspicuous light variegations all over the back and tail. The adults are dark brown in colour, without any markings at all (*sagittifera* Wall)

Naja naja oxiana

23-27 scales across the neck, (19) 21-23 at mid-body (increase 2-6, usually 4), 17 or 15 in front of the vent V 186-213 C 62-75

Young —Light greyish or brownish above, uniform or with dark reticulations confined chiefly to the interstitial skin, or

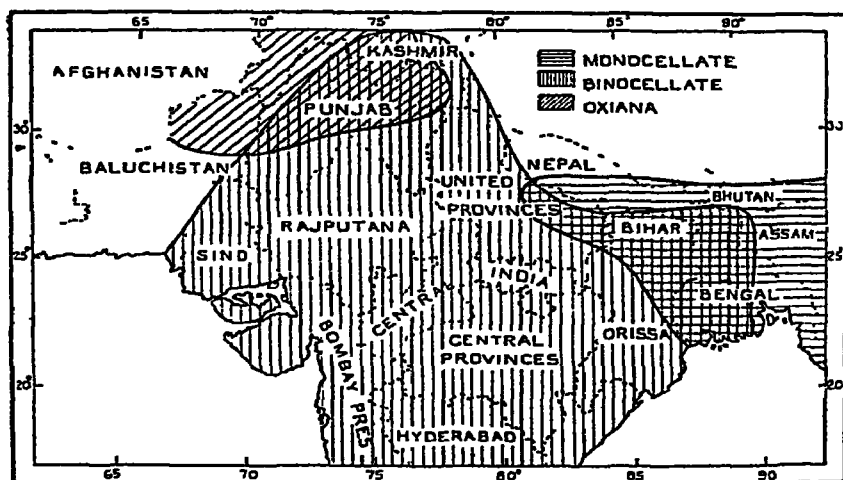


Fig 139 —Map shewing the distribution of Cobras in India

with dark transverse or chevron-shaped cross-bars. The bars on the hood are blacker than those on the body and extend across the under surface; belly whitish.

Adult —Brownish or blackish, usually without any other distinct markings, lighter below than above.

Range As in the map

According to Wall (1911) *N. n. oxiana* is a very common snake in Chitral up to 5,000 feet, and it was the only form he met with in Malakand. In young specimens the bands are quite conspicuous as far as the vent. He remarks that its hood is not so expansive as in the spectacled variety usually seen in India. The scale counts explain this, the number across the neck being only from 2-6, usually 4, in excess of those on the body.

The literature upon the habits of the Cobra is now extensive, and very complete accounts have been given by Wall (1913 and 1921). The following remarks are extracted mainly from his articles, I have dealt also with other controversial points based upon my own observations

The Cobra may be found in almost all types of country. It is equally at home in the jungle, in the open fields, or in the vicinity of human habitations even in thickly populated areas. It is extremely fond of water, and in the hot dry weather before the monsoon breaks is seldom found far from it. All observers agree that it is not an aggressive snake, and when disturbed usually makes off rapidly. There are many instances on record of Cobras having been picked up and handled without making any attempt to bite. This, however, has usually taken place in the daytime, and it is as well to remember that the Cobra by day and the Cobra by night can be a very different creature. Acton and Knowles (1914) stressed this point, and pointed out the ineffectiveness of the Cobra's strike during the daytime. Not only is the aim bad, but it is usually done with a closed mouth. At night, however, the snake sees better: the strike is a determined one and made with the intention of gripping. My own observations in Bangkok confirm their remarks. In spite of these statements, however, the Cobra is far from being nocturnal in its habits. The most usual time for it to be seen in search of food is in the late afternoon and early evening. Young Cobras are much more aggressive in their disposition than adults, and will strike readily at anything.

The remarkable pose which the Cobra adopts when alarmed has made it known throughout the World. The height to which it can erect itself varies from one-quarter to one-third of its total length, but, given good balance by throwing the head well back, this can be exceeded. The effective striking range is very limited, but it can eject or "spit" its poison for a distance of at least three feet and with considerable accuracy.

The Cobra feeds chiefly on rats, mice, toads and frogs, less frequently on birds, eggs and snakes. My own in captivity lived mainly on toads, devouring them as a harmless snake would, and making no use of their venom to kill them first.

Pairing takes place in January and February, and the eggs are usually laid in May, but the period of deposition may extend over several months. There is considerable evidence now collected to show that from the time of pairing until the young are born the pair remain together, and that the male also takes a share in guarding the eggs. Incubation takes from 69-84 days. The Belle Vue Cobras (Jennison, 1931, and Smith, 1937) made their own "nest," but it is probable that in most cases they take advantage of some hole in the earth already existing.

The usual number of eggs laid varies from 10-20, but 45 have been recorded, 36 of which were fertile. When born, the young measure 240-260 mm in length. They grow rapidly during the first year. Wall, confirming observations made by Nicholson, states that young ones measuring 12 inches in length in July averaged 2 ft 6 in by the following July. After that growth was slower. 4 ft 10 in was attained at the end of the fourth year.

328. *Naja hannah*.

HAMADRYAD, KING COBRA.

- Hamadryas hannah* Cantor, 1836, *Asiat Research*, xix, p 187, pls 10-11 (Sandarbans, near Calcutta).—*Naja hannah*, Wall, *J Bombay N H S* xxx, 1924, p 189, and 1925, pp 242, 820, and xxxi, 1926, p 564, fig penis, and *Pois Sn. India*, 1928, p 27, Aagaard, *J Nat Hist Soc Siam*, vi, 1924, p. 315, Pope, *Rept China*, 1935, p. 346, Bourret, *Serp Indochine*, 1936, p 399, Smith, *Rec Ind Mus* xlii, 1940, p 485.
- Naja bungarus* Schlegel, 1837, *Phys. Serp* ii, p 476, pl xvi, figs. 8 and 9 (Sumatra, Leyden), Boulenger, *F B I* 1890, p. 391, fig, and *Cat Sn Brit Mus* iii, 1896, p 386, Boddard, *P. Z S* 1903, p 319, Flower, *ibid.* 1899, p. 691, Wall & Evans, *J Bombay N H S* xiii, 1901, p 616, Evans, *ibid* xiv, 1902, p 409, and xxvii, 1921, p. 955, Aitken, *ibid* xiv, 1902, p 629, Wall, *ibid* xviii, 1908, p 331, and xix, 1909, p 355, and 1910, pp 841, 899, Fenton, *ibid* xxv, 1917, p 151, and xxvi, 1919, p 575, Prashad, *ibid* xxiii, 1915, p 585, and *Rec Ind Mus* xi, 1915, p 140, Thompson, *P Z S* 1914, p 398, Acton & Knowles, *Ind J. Med. Res* 1914, p 52, W. J L Smith, *J Bombay N H S* xxxviii, 1935, p 200, H C Smith, *ibid* xxxix, 1936, p 186, photo nest, Mustill, *ibid* p 186.
- Hamadryas ophiophagus* Cantor, 1838, *P Z S* p 73 (Bengal, col. sketches in Bodleian, nos 8-9); Fayrer, *Thanatoph India*, 1874 col pls 7 and 8.
- Naja vittata* W. Elliott, 1840, *Madras J. Litt and Sci* xi, p 39, pl 1 (found in a box floating in the sea, near Madras).
- Hamadryas claps* Theobald, *Cat Rept Mus Asiat Soc Bengal* 1868, p 71.
- Naja ingens* Von Hasselt, 1882, *Versl. A K Amsterdam*, xvii, p 140.

Poison fangs followed by 3 small teeth.

Head scales as in *Naja naja*, differing as follows.—Frontal not truncate anteriorly, preocular squarish, separated from the internasal by the prefrontal, temporals 2+2, a pair of large occipital shields in contact with one another, no cuneate scale on the lower jaw.

Scales smooth, oblique, those of the vertebral series and the outer 2 rows larger than the others, in 17 or 19 rows upon the neck, 15 at mid-body and in front of the vent. V. 240-254, C 84-104, the anterior shields single (Description drawn up from specimens from India and Indo-China.) In the anterior part of the body only the vertebral row of scales is enlarged,

in the hinder part of the body the median three rows may be enlarged

Boulenger (F. B I) and de Rooij both figure the head with a small scale interposed between the parietals and occipitals. It is evidently a rare character I have seen it in a specimen from S Canara, and Prashad records it in another (1915, p 140)

Hemipenis very long and deeply forked, extending to the 30th caudal plate or beyond, forked opposite the 4th The area at the bifurcation has a few large, strong spines, the rest of the organ is fionced except the distal extremity, which is calyculate , the sulcus lips are smooth

Young —Black above, with narrow, white, buff or yellow transverse bars These are chevron-shaped, pointing forwards on the anterior part of the body, more or less transverse

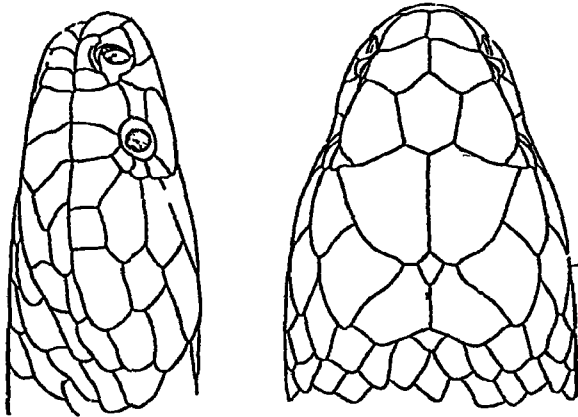


Fig 140 —*Naja hannah* (After Boulenger, F. B I 1890)

behind , on the sides of the body they expand , head with 4 bars, namely, one on the top of the snout, not always distinct, one in front of and one behind the eye, and a crescentic one on the back of the head , the two hinder bars are composed of a series of spots , whitish below, with narrow black or brown cross-bars, the colour being confined to the edge of the ventral scales and corresponding in position with the dark colour of the back , on the hinder part of the body and tail the dark colour increases in amount, and may completely supplant the white

As age advances the markings disappear , on the head and forepart of the body they are usually lost entirely, which then becomes brown or olive , on the hinder part of the body some trace of the bars always remains, with or without a black edging The tail may be almost entirely black or olive, with the scales edged with black

The King Cobra rarely exceeds 14 or 15 feet in length; Aagaard (1924) has recorded one from the Nakon Sritamarat Mts, Peninsular Siam, which was 18 ft. 4 in. long. The tail forms nearly one-fifth of the total length

Range Peninsular India to the Himalayas; the whole of the Indo-Chinese subregion as far north as the Triangle in Upper Burma; southern China, the Andaman Islands, the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago; the Philippine Islands

In Peninsular India (except in the north-east, its distribution corresponds to the mountain ranges and their near vicinity, in the Nilgiris and in the Western Himalayas it has been met with at 6,000 feet altitude. In the north-west it has been recorded from near Lahore in the Punjab, and Deesa district in western India; it has not been met with in Central India. It is nowhere a common snake (Wall, 1924, p 195)

In Indo-China, Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, on the other hand, it is found usually in the plains, and it is not uncommon in many parts of Burma, Siam and French Indo-China

Wall states that it frequents dense jungle, in Siam, on the other hand, it is usually found in fairly open country, it is fond of water and climbs trees with ease. It is diurnal in its habits. Its main diet consists of snakes, both harmless and poisonous species are taken, and it is not averse to devouring those of its own kind. There are two records of Pythons having been attacked by it. Lizards of the genus *Varanus* (Monitor) appear to form the only variation from an ophidian diet. Wall records four instances of them having been eaten, and a captive in the London Zoological Gardens would for a time eat nothing else.

W. J. L. Smith (1935) records two Hamadryads mating at Palaw, Burma, on January 31st. They measured 8 ft and 12 ft 10 in in length respectively. The eggs, from 21-40 in number, are deposited in a "nest" of leaves or vegetable debris, and are guarded afterwards by the female. The male, at any rate in some instances, is in attendance also. H. C. Smith, and Mustill (1936) have given independent and detailed accounts of the "nest". Externally it looks like a heap of dead leaves that would not attract attention. In Smith's case "14 people accompanied by 7 dogs twice passed at different times within two yards of the nest, and yet the Hamadryad failed to show itself, and the nest remained undiscovered until I prodded the heap of leaves with a small cane". Within the heap is the real nest. It is composed of two compartments, the lower of which contains the eggs and is completely shut off from the upper, in which the female lies coiled up. Nests containing eggs have been found in April, May and June. The young when born measure 500-530 mm in length.

The aggressive disposition of the Hamadryad is well known, and there are many accounts of people having been attacked by it. Usually, however, when encountered, the snake makes off without delay.

Family HYDROPHIIDÆ.

SEA SNAKES

Hydrophidæ Boie, Isis, 1827, p. 410 (in part) — *Hydrophidæ*, Smith, Monogr. Sea Sn. 1926, p. 1, and Dana Report, Copenhagen, no. 8, 1935, p. 1, map, Wall, Mem. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 11, 1909, p. 169; Smedley, Bull. Raff. Mus. 1931, no. 5, pp. 54-8, Nagai, Copeia, 1933, p. 227, Mertens, Zoogeograph. Jena, 1934, p. 305; Bourret, Serp. Marins Indochine Franç. 1935, and Serp. Indochine, 1936, p. 338.

Cranial characters as in the Elapidæ (p. 406). Nostrils situated on the upper surface of the snout (except in *Laticauda*); eye with round pupil, tongue short, only the cleft portion protrusible. Head shields entire or broken up, usually no loreal shield. Body more or less compressed posteriorly, tail strongly compressed, paddle-shaped. Neural spines and hypapophyses very strongly developed in the caudal region, hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column. The nasal cavity of the Sea Snakes is discussed on p. 19.

Range. The coasts of Asia from the Persian Gulf to southern Japan, and through the Indo-Australian seas to the coasts of Australia and islands of Oceania as far east as the Samoan Islands (Lat. 170° W). One species, namely *Pelamis platurus*, has extended its range beyond these limits; it has crossed the Pacific to the western coast of tropical America, and the Indian Ocean to the eastern coast of Africa. Although Sea Snakes are common round the coasts of India, they have not been met with at the Maldive and Laccadive Islands.

There are two subfamilies, the *Laticaudinæ* and the *Hydrophinæ*. They are united through *Ephalophis* Smith, 1931, P. Z. S. p. 327, from the north coast of Australia.

The *Hydrophinæ* live an entirely aquatic life, and in their native habitat are graceful and rapid swimmers, on land, owing to the absence of proper ventral shields, their movements are slow and awkward. They are seldom found many miles from the shore, and prefer the vicinity of coasts where the waters are comparatively sheltered, river-mouths are particularly favoured by them. Some species are fond of basking on the surface of the water, and on days when the sea is quite calm they may be seen from the bows of a travelling steamer, sometimes in hundreds, chiefly in the early morning and late afternoon. As soon as they feel the wash of the vessel they dive almost vertically downwards and disappear.

They feed upon fish, and hunt for them both by day and by night, those species with small heads and long slender forebodies appear to live almost exclusively upon eels. They will take bait at the end of a line, and, like moths that fly to a candle, are attracted by a light of any kind held over the water after dark.

The Laticaudinæ are never found far from the shore, and some of them (*Laticauda* species) appear to spend a good deal of their time out of water.

All the Hydrophunæ produce their young alive. The recent observations of Smedley on *Laticauda colubrina* (1931) and Nagai on *L. semifasciata* (1933) have shown that those species are oviparous, and it may be that all the Laticaudinæ are oviparous.

Mr Willoughby Lowe, in 'The Trail that is Always New,' 1932, p. 43, has described a remarkable sight, which may be connected with the breeding habits of Sea-Snakes. It is so interesting that it deserves to be more widely known, and I quote it here in full: "Leaving Colombo we departed for Penang, and the voyage from now on became more interesting.

To starboard lay the beautiful green island of Sumatra and to the port the Malay Peninsula. The water now became very calm and oily in appearance. After luncheon on 4th May, I came on deck and was talking to some passengers when, looking landward, I saw a long line running parallel with our course. It must have been four or five miles off. We smoked and chatted, had a siesta and went down to tea. On returning to the deck we still saw the curious line along which we had been steaming for four hours, but now it lay across our course. As we drew nearer we were amazed to find that it was composed of a solid mass of sea-snakes, twisted thickly together. They were orange-red and black, a variety known as *Astrota stokesi**. Some were paler in colour and as thick as one's wrist, but the most conspicuous were as thick as a man's leg above the knee. Along this line there must have been millions. When I say millions I consider it no exaggeration, for the line was quite ten feet wide, and we followed its course for some sixty miles. It certainly was a wonderful sight. As the ship cut the line in two, we still watched the extending file of foam and snakes until it was eventually lost to sight."

Another instance of Sea Snakes massing together was told me by the late Mr H. C. Robinson, Director of the Federated Malay States Museum, when he was anchored one night off Quantan, on the E. coast of the Malay Peninsula. The whole sea round his yacht, he said, seemed to be alive with sea snakes, twisting and coiling together. They remained at the surface of the water and did not dive down and disappear when disturbed as they usually do.

* Identified after examining the material in the British Museum

All the Sea Snakes are poisonous, the venom of some of the Hydrophinae being particularly deadly. Laboratory experiments have shown that the venom of *Enhydrina schistosa* is considerably more powerful than that of the Cobra. On the other hand the venom of some of the Laticaudinae does not appear to be strongly toxic to human life. There are no records of bathers ever having been attacked by Sea Snakes, and in general when caught it is only under considerable provocation that they can be induced to bite.

The majority of the species do not exceed 1200 or 1300 mm. in length. *Hydrophis cyanocinctus* and *H. spiralis* have been recorded measuring 2.50 and 2.75 metres: *Astrota stokesi*, although not exceeding two metres, is remarkable for its great girth.

Complete synonymies and references to all the genera and species will be found in my 'Monograph of the Sea Snakes.'

Key to the Genera.

- I. Maxillary bone extending forwards beyond the palatine; ventrals large, one-third to more than one-half the breadth of the body. (Laticaudinae).
 - A. Nostrils lateral, nasals separated by the internasal(s). LATICAUDA, p. 442
 - B. Nostrils superior, nasal shields in contact with one another. AEPYURUS, p. 445
- II. Maxillary bone not extending forwards beyond the palatine, except in *Kerilia* and *Microcephalophis*; ventrals small, not more than one-quarter the breadth of the body, or absent. (Hydrophinae).
 - A. Ventrals distinct throughout and normally entire.
 1. Head shields regular and normally entire
 - a. Maxillary bone extending forwards beyond the palatine; diastema after the poison fangs absent or feebly distinct; not more than 23 scales round the body. KERILIA, p. 446.
 - b. Maxillary bone not extending forwards beyond the palatine; diastema after the poison-fangs quite distinct more than 25 scales round the thickest part of the body.
 - B. Head shields more or less divided.
 1. Mental shield normal; ventrals broad anteriorly, narrow posteriorly. 5 maxillary teeth. PRÆSCUTATA, p. 447
 2. Mental elongate, partly hidden in a groove in the symphysis, ventrals uniform in size; 3 to 5 maxillary teeth. ENEYDRINA, p. 449
 3. Mental normal; ventrals uniform in size; 1 to 18 maxillary teeth. HYDROPHIS, p. 451.
 4. Dorsal scales large, in regular rows, 31 to 35 at mid-body. [p. 466.
 5. Dorsal scales small, in irregular rows, 70 to 90 at mid-body. THALASSOPHIS,
 6. KOLPROPHIS, p. 467.

- B Ventrals, except quite anteriorly, either divided by a median longitudinal fissure, or vestigial (smaller than the adjacent dorsal scales) or absent*
- 1 Head not small, body not long and slender anteriorly
 Ventrals entire or vestigial, or absent, dorsal scales juxtaposed, the lowermost 3 or 4 rows larger than the others
 Ventrals in two halves, dorsal scales pointed, strongly imbricate
 Ventrals, when distinct, with a longitudinal fissure, dorsal scales juxtaposed, subquad-rangular in shape
 2 Head very small, body long and very slender anteriorly
 Ventrals divided by a longitudinal fissure, scales juxtaposed
- LAFEMIS, p 468
 ASTROTIA, p 471
 PELAMIS, p 475
 [p 472
 MICROCEPHALOPHIS,

Genus LATICAUDA.

Laticauda Laurenti, 1768, Syn Rept p 109 (type *scutata*), Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 3
Platurus Latreille, 1802, Hist Nat Rept iv, p 183 (type *fasciatus*); Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 394, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 306

Maxillary bone extending forwards beyond the palatine, poison fangs followed after an interval by 1 or 2 teeth Head shields entire, nostrils lateral, nasals separated by the internasal(s) Scales imbricate, in 19-25 rows, ventrals large, at least half as broad as the body Body subcylindrical, of equal diameter throughout

Range From the coasts of Asia (Bay of Bengal to S Japan) to the north coast of Australia and islands of Oceania Five species are known

Key to the Species

- Scales in 19 rows; no azygous prefrontal shield *laticaudata*, p 442.
 Scales in 21-25 rows, normally an azygous pre-frontal shield *colubrina*, p 443

329. *Laticauda laticaudata*.

Coluber laticaudatus (in part) Linn 1758, Syst Nat 10th ed p 222 (India) — *Laticauda laticaudata*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn. 1926, p 4

Body subcylindrical, of nearly uniform diameter throughout Rostral higher than broad, no azygous shield separating the internasals or prefrontals, frontal longer than its distance from the end of the snout, 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, 7 supralabials, the 3rd-4th touching the eye, temporals 1+2, five infralabials in contact with the genials, both pairs of which are well developed and broadly in contact with each other

* Usually well developed throughout in *Lapemis curtus*

Scales in 19 rows, imbricate and smooth throughout. V. 225-243, about four times as broad as long, anal divided, C ♂ 38-47, ♀ 30-35. A median ventral keel sometimes present on the posterior part of the body.

Hemipenis forked near the tip, the distal one-third is provided with short spines which are on a flattened base and arranged in longitudinal series, the remainder of the organ is plicate, the folds being sinuous and longitudinally arranged.

Light or dark bluish-grey above, yellowish below, with black bands of more or less uniform width throughout, some or all of which may be incomplete below. Head black, with a curved yellow mark above, this colour often extending forwards to cover the whole of the snout and downwards behind the eye to reach the lip. A median elongated patch of yellow on the jaw below, variable in width and usually connecting with the first yellow ring upon the neck.

Total length ♂ 910, tail 110, ♀ 1070, tail 110 mm.

Range. From the Bay of Bengal and the seas south of Japan to the coast of Australia and islands of Oceania. Rare in the Oriental region (Calcutta and Little Nicobar Harbour).

330. *Laticauda colubrina*.

Hydrus colubrinus Schneider, 1799, *Hist. Amphib.* i, p. 238 —
Laticauda colubrina, Smith, *Monogr. Sea Sn.* 1926, p. 6;
Smedlev, *Bull. Raffles Mus.* no. 5, 1931, p. 54.

Body subcylindrical, only slightly compressed. Rostral higher than broad, an azygous shield separating the prefrontals, sometimes absent; frontal considerably longer than its distance from the end of the snout, 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, 7-8 supralabials, the 3rd-4th touching the eye, temporals 1+2, five infralabials in contact with the genuals, both pairs of which are usually well developed and in contact with one another, the anterior pair smaller than the posterior. A double series of elongated scales, the inner series the larger, at the oral margin after the second infralabial.

Scales in 21 to 23, rarely 25, rows, imbricate and smooth throughout. V. 213-245, about four times as broad as long. C. ♂ 37-47, ♀ 29-35, anal divided.

Hemipenis forked near the tip; it is spinose throughout, the spines being short, thick and closely set in the distal half, longer and fewer in number in the proximal half.

Light or dark bluish-grey above, yellowish below, with black bands of more or less uniform width throughout, or narrowing across the belly; some or all of them may be interrupted below. Snout yellow, the colour extending backwards on each side of the head above the eye as far as the temporal shields and along the upper lip, leaving a dark bar in between. Rest of the head black, this colour co-terminous with the band

behind the eye, the first and sometimes the second band upon the neck and a streak along either side of the lower jaw, leaving an elongated yellow patch in between

Total length ♂ 875, tail 130 ; ♀ 1420, tail 145 mm

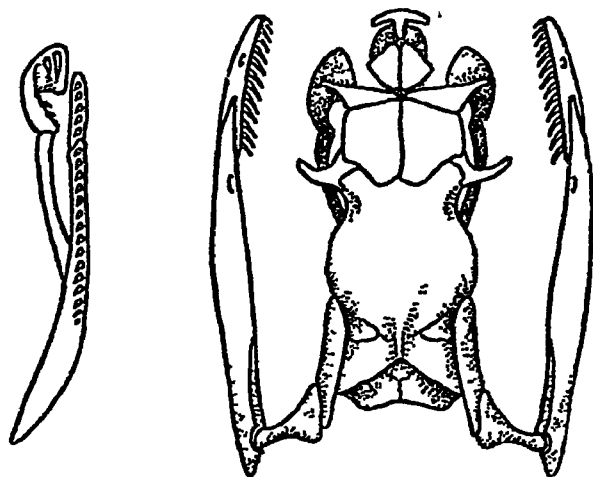


Fig 141 —Skull and palato-maxillary arch of *Laticauda laticaudata* (After Smith, Monogr. 1926)

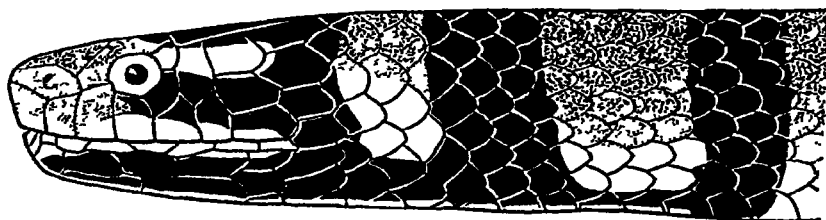
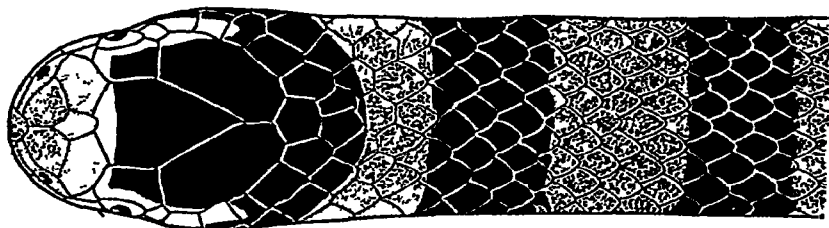


Fig 142 —*Laticauda colubrina* (B M 1936 798)

Range. As in the preceding species Very rare in Indian and Indo-Chinese waters, but not uncommon at Singapore Island Within the limits covered by this work it has been recorded from Calcutta, Ramri Island off the coast of Arakan, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Genus AEPYURUS.

Aipysurus Lacépède, 1804, Ann Mus Paris, iv, p 197 (type *lævis*),
Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 303 (in part); Smith,
Monogr. Sea Sn 1926, p 13

Aepyurus Agassiz, 1846, Nomen Zool Index Univ, Berg, Comm
Mus. Nac B Aires, i, (8) 1901, p 289 (correction).

Maxillary bone extending forwards beyond the palatine, poison fangs followed after an interval by from 5-11 teeth. Head shields entire or divided, nostrils superior, nasal shields in contact with one another. Scales imbricate, in 17-25 rows, ventrals one-third to one-half the breadth of the body. Body subcylindrical, of nearly equal diameter throughout.

Range From the coasts of Asia (Gulf of Siam and coast of Cochun China) to the north coast of Australia and islands of Oceania. Seven species are known, one occurs on the coast of Asia.

331. *Aepyurus eydouxi*.

Tomogaster eydouxi Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit Mus p 59 (Indian Ocean, London) — *Aipysurus eydouxi*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn. 1926, p 14, Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch Franç 1935, p 20, and Serp Indoch 1936, p 343, fig.

Body subcylindrical, not much compressed, of nearly uniform diameter throughout. Maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs very small, 10 or 11 in number, eye rather large, upper head shields regular, frontal large, longer than its distance from the end of the snout; prefrontals normally 2, sometimes divided to form a transverse series of 4, 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, 2 anterior temporals, 6 supralabials, the second not in contact with the prefrontal, 4th touching the eye, 6th usually the longest, anterior pair of genials in contact with one another and shorter than the posterior pair, which are separated by scales.

Scales in 17 rows, imbricate and smooth. V. 129-142, with a more or less developed median keel terminating in a strong spinous tubercle in adult males, anal divided, C. 23-32.

Hemipenis forked near the tip, it is spinose throughout except near the base, where there are longitudinal folds.

Brownish or olive above, with from 44 to 55 cross-bands of yellow black-edged scales, often broken up on the vertebral line, these bands widen towards the belly, which is yellow. Head dark olive, blackish in the young. A specimen caught in the Gulf of Siam had a rich slate-blue iridescence in life.

A very large female in the Zoological Museum, Leiden, from Samarang, Java, measures 910 mm in total length. As a rule, the species does not exceed 550 mm in length.

Variation. With the exception of the prefrontals, which are sometimes divided to form four in a transverse series, the scalation of the head in this species is very constant. The ventral keel is variable, in 11 examples from the Bight of Bangkok it is poorly developed in four and strongly developed in four, while in the remaining three each keel terminates, in the fore-part of the body, in a stout spine. In these three examples also there is a series of small tubercles along the outermost row of dorsal scales for a short distance anteriorly.

Range The coasts of Siam, Cochin China and southern Annam (Phan-thiet), the Indo-Australian Archipelago, Queensland

Genus **KERILIA.**

Kerilia Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit Mus p 57 (type *jerdoni*), Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 385, Smith Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 31.

Distira, Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 408

Maxillary bone extending forwards beyond the palatine, poison fangs followed, without any, or scarcely any, interval,

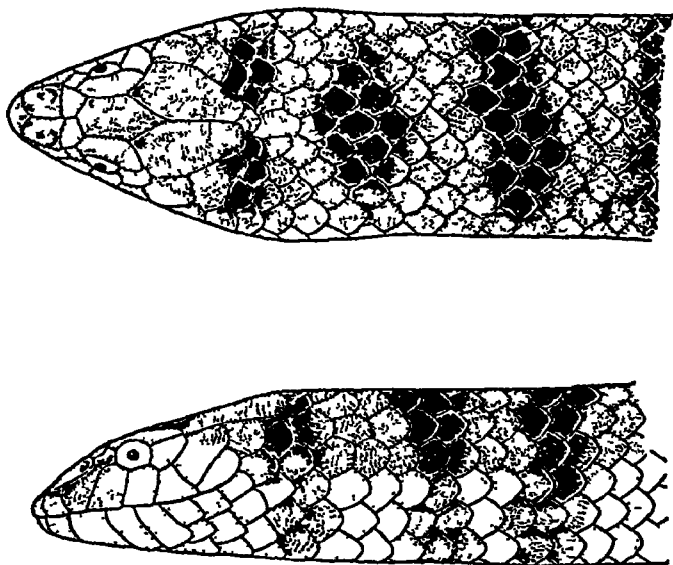


Fig. 143 — *Kerilia jerdoni*

by from 7 to 9 teeth. Snout declivous, much narrowed anteriorly, head shields entire, nostrils superior, nasals in contact with one another. Scales in 19 to 23 rows, ventrals narrow, not much broader than the adjacent scales, body of almost equal diameter throughout.

A single species

332. *Kerilia jerdoni*.

Kerilia jerdoni Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit Mus p 57 (Madras, London), Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 31, Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch Franç 1935, p 23, and Serp Indoch 1936, p 346

Kerilia jerdoni siamensis Smith, 1926, Monogr Sea Sn p 32 (Patani Bay, London)

Head short, snout declivous and much narrowed anteriorly; eye moderate, rostral as high as broad, prefrontals small, usually not in contact with the supralabials; frontal much longer than broad, nearly as long as its distance from the end of the snout 1 pre- and 1 postocular 6 supralabials, the last often confluent with the single anterior temporal, the 3rd and 4th touching the eye 7-8 infra-labials, the first three in contact with the genials, both pairs of which are well developed and in contact with one another

17 scale-rows on the neck, 21 or 23, rarely 19, at mid-body, imbricate and strongly keeled, V 225-253 for specimens from the coasts of India and Gulf of Siam. 247-278 for 11 examples from Cap St Jacques and S Annam (*vide* Bourret, p 25)

Hemipenis forked near the tip, it is spinose throughout, the spines being of moderate size, closely set and becoming slightly larger as they approach the proximal end

Olive above, yellowish or white beneath, with black dorsal spots or rhombs which extend round the body to form complete bands in the young intermediate dorsal spots or bars are usually present

Examples from the Bay of Bengal have 19 or 21 scales at mid-body and the dorsal bars number from 30-38 (*forma typica*)

Examples from the Gulf of Siam have usually 21 or 23 scales at mid-body and the dorsal bars number from 34-50 (*K. j. siamensis*)

Total length 1000, tail 100 mm

Range The east coast of the Indian Peninsula, Ceylon, the Mergu Archipelago and Straits of Malacca, the east coast of the Malayo-Siamese Peninsula (Patani Bay, Quantan, Singora), the east coast of Cochun China and S Annam (Cap St Jacques to Phan-thiet) Borneo

Genus PRÆSCUTATA.

Præscutata Wall, 1921, Sn Ceylon, p 390 (type *viperina*)

Thalassophina Smith, 1926, Monogr Sea Sn p 33 (type *viperina*)

Distira, Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 407

Maxillary bone not extending forwards as far as the palatine, which is curved strongly outwards, poison fangs followed after an interval by 5 teeth Head shields entire, nostrils superior nasal shields in contact with one another Scales in 37-50 rows on the thickest part of the body more or less

hexagonal in shape and juxtaposed, ventrals broad anteriorly, narrow posteriorly

A single species

In my 'Monograph of the Sea Snakes' I overlooked Wall's name *Præscutata*, which antedates my *Thalassophina* by five years

333. *Præscutata viperina*.

Thalassophis viperina Schmidt, 1852, Abh Nat Ver Hamburg, 11, p 79, pl iii (Java, Hamburg) — *Præscutata viperina*, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 391. — *Thalassophina viperina*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 33, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 356, Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch Franç 1, 1935, p 28, and Serp Indochin 1936, p 349, Volsee, Danish Sc Invest Iran, 1, 1939, p 10

Head short, depressed, distinct from neck, snout broadly rounded, eye moderate, nasal shields subtriangular, as broad as long, prefrontals much broader than long, not in contact with the labials, frontal about as broad as long, twice as broad as the supraocular, 1, rarely 2, pre- and 1-2 postoculars, 7-9 supralabials, the 3rd to the 5th, or only two of them, touching the eye, temporals variable, usually a single anterior shield, but sometimes 2-3, 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, the posterior pair usually larger than the anterior and in contact with one another

27-34 scale-rows on the neck, 37-50 on the body, V (181) 226-274 (291), those anterior half the breadth of the body, narrowing gradually until the posterior are not twice as broad as the adjacent scales, preanal shields considerably enlarged

Hemipenis forked near the tip and spinose throughout except at the proximal end, where there are longitudinal folds

Three colour forms can be distinguished, they bear no relation to geographical areas —

1 Grey above, white below, the two colours meeting on the flank in a fairly clear line of demarcation A common form

2 Dorsum grey with dark rhomboidal spots or bars (25-35 in number), usually more or less confluent A common form (*forma typica*)

3 Completely banded A rare form Wall records one in the Indian Museum from Puri (no 8277), there is another in the Bombay Collection from Karwar, a third specimen is from Borneo

Total length ♂ 925, tail 100, ♀ 820, tail 80 mm

Range From the Persian Gulf to southern China and the Malay Archipelago

Variation. An example (no 2716) with only 181 ventral shields was recorded by me in Journ F M S Mus 1920 The number is so far below (45) any other record that I regard it as an aberration It is from Koh Kong (B M 1921 2 11 128).

Genus **ENHYDRINA.**

Enhydrina Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit Mus p 47 (type *valakadyen*) ;
 Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 405, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 400 ;
 Smith, Monogr. Sea Sn 1926, p. 36

Maxillary bone not extending forwards as far as the palatine ,
 poison fangs followed after an interval by 3 or 4 teeth Head
 shields entire , nostrils superior , nasals in contact with one
 another , mental narrow, elongate, partly hidden in a groove
 in the symphysis. Body elongate , scales imbricate or sub-
 imbricate, in from 49-66 rows on the thickest part of the body ;
 ventrals distinct throughout, a little broader than the adjacent
 scales

A single species.

334. *Enhydrina schistosa*.

Hydrophis schistosus Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vii, p. 386
 (based on Russel, ii, pl x, Tranquebar) —*Enhydrina schistosa*,
 Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 36, E G Boulenger, The
 Aquarium Book, 1926, p 129, Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch.
 Franç 1935, p 25, and Serp Indochin 1936, p. 347. Volsøe,
 Danish Sc Invest Iran, i, 1939, p 14
Enhydrina valakadyen, Boulenger, 1890, F B. I. p 406, fig. ;
 Prater, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1924, p 174

Eye moderate ; rostral higher than broad , prefrontals much

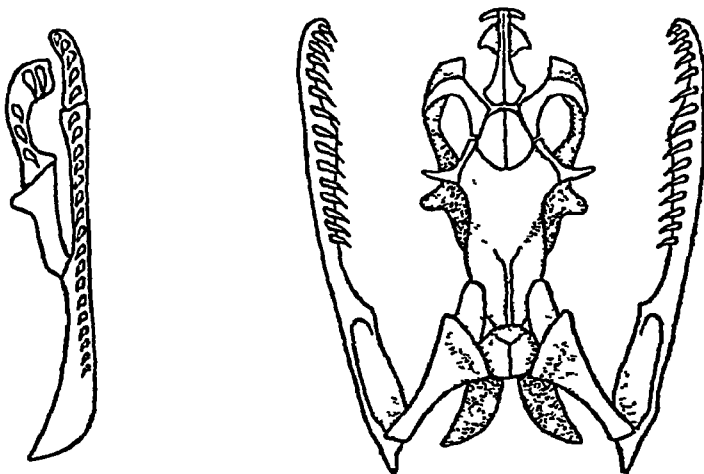


Fig 144 —Skull and palato-maxillary arch of *Enhydrina schistosa*.
 (After Smith, Monogr 1926)

narrowed anteriorly , frontal small, shorter than its distance
 from the end of the snout , 1 pre- and 1, sometimes 2, post-
 oculars ; 7-8 supralabials, the 3rd and 4th or 4th only touching
 the eye, the last 2-3 very small , usually a single anterior

temporal, mental narrow, elongate, partly hidden in a groove in the symphysis, 5 infralabials in contact with the genials, which are poorly developed and separated by scales

40-52 scale-rows on the neck in males, 42-55 in females, 49-60 on the body in males, 51-66 in females, the scales imbricate or subimbricate, with a short central keel; V. 239-322 (354), distinct throughout, a little broader than the adjacent scales, preanals feebly enlarged

Hemipenis forked for about half its length, the tip is furnished with coarse, flattened, papilla-like structures arranged in longitudinal series: the remainder of the organ is spinose, the spines being of moderate size, closely set and becoming slightly larger as they approach the base

The young are grey or bluish-grey above, whitish below, with dark grey or black annuli broadest dorsally, these markings usually disappear in the adult, the back then being of a

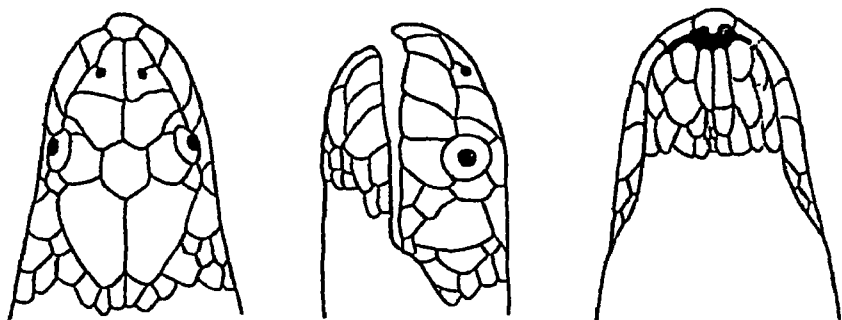


Fig 145 — *Enhydrina schistosa* (After Wall, Monogr. 1909.)

uniform greyish colour. Variations from this are rare. A specimen from the Gulf of Siam, no. 2045, is, although adult, marked with narrow, jet-black dorsal bars on the posterior three-quarters of the body. Specimens B M 1921.2 11 136-138 have a broad black irregular band along either side of the body, a narrow ventral band and irregular black dorsal spots. All three are from the Gulf of Siam.

Total length 1400, tail 180 mm. This is an unusually large individual. The majority of specimens do not exceed 1100 mm in length.

Range. From the Persian Gulf to the coast of Cochin China and the north coast of Australia. It is the commonest sea snake known. It abounds in most localities on the Asiatic coast within the limits mentioned. Bourret records a specimen found in the Grand Lac of Cambodia, where the water is fresh.

Genus **HYDROPHIS.**

Hydrophis Latreille, 1802, *Fist Nat Rept.* iv, p 193 (type *fasciatus*);
Boulenger, F B I 1890 p 398 (in part); Smith, *Monogr. Sea Sn.*
1926, p 40.

Distira, Boulenger, 1890, F B I. p 407 (in part).

Maxillary bone not extending forwards beyond the palatine ;
poison fangs followed after an interval by from 1 to 18 teeth.
Head shields entire, nostrils superior, nasals in contact with
one another. Body elongate, scales imbricate, subimbricate
or juxtaposed, in from 29-57 rows on the thickest part of the
body, ventrals normally distinct throughout, not much
broader than the adjacent scales

Range. From the coasts of Asia to the north coast of
Australia and islands of Oceania. Some 25 species are
recognized.

Key to the Species.

I. Scales on the thickest part of the body with
rounded or bluntly pointed tips, distinctly
or feebly imbricate

A Maxillary bone shorter than the lower
aspect of the ectopterygoid; 1 or 2 maxil-
lary teeth*

Temporals small, scarcely differentiated from ordi-
nary scales; head with yellow markings .

[p. 452
nigrocinctus,

B Maxillary bone longer than the lower aspect
of the ectopterygoid, 5-8 maxillary
teeth*, body elongate, ventrals 295-413

a Normally one anterior temporal, 6-8
supralabials

Scales 25-31 · 33-38 (4-8)†, V 295-362, body
with narrow black bands, head in the adult
yellowish

spiralis, p 453.

Scales 27: 48 (21); V 276, body grey, uniform .

bituberculatus,

[p 458.

19-23 scale-rows on the neck; 6-7 supralabials . .

obscurus, p 457.

23-27 scale-rows on the neck, 5-6 supralabials

llossi, p 457.

b Normally two anterior temporals

Scales 27-35 · 37-47 (8-14), V 290-390, head in the
adult olive or yellowish

[p 454
cyanocinctus,

II Scales on the thickest part of the body sub-
quadrangular or hexagonal in shape, feebly
imbricate or juxtaposed, 8-18 maxillary
teeth

A 8-13 maxillary teeth

a Normally one anterior temporal

V 374-452

stricticollis, p 459.

V 271-343

[*dema*, p, 460.
torquatus dia-

* Exclusive of the poison fangs

† Represents the number of scale-rows on the neck and body, and
the increase in the number of scale-rows from neck to body.

b. Two anterior temporals

- V. 209-312, head olive or grey in the adult, body with dorsal bars or rhomboidal spots [p 460
ornatus ornatus,
 29-35 scale-rows on the neck, V 314-372, head with a curved yellow mark above in the young, indistinct or lost in the adult *lapemoides*, p 461
 25-29 scale-rows on the neck, V 302-390, head black . *mamillaris*, p 462
 B 14-18 maxillary teeth
 Two anterior temporals, scales 31-43 . 38-54, V 253-334. , *cærulescens*, p 463
 III As in II, but with 5-6 maxillary teeth, head very small, body long and very slender anteriorly
 Scales 25-33 . 39-58, V 323-514, head black *fasciatus*, p 464
 Scales 19 33, V 340, head black *parviceps*, p 465.
 Scales 25-31 . 37-45, V 328-414, head with yellow markings *brookei*, p 465

335. *Hydrophis nigrocinctus*.

Hydrophis nigrocinctus Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vii, p 380
 (based on Russell, n, p 7, pl vi, Sandarbans), Smith, Monogr
 Sea Sn 1926, p 44

1 or 2 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs, head moderate, body elongate, robust in the adult, the diameter of the neck one-half to one-third the greatest diameter of the body, eye moderate, frontal about as long as its distance from the end of the snout, a small loreal usually present, 1, sometimes 2, pre- and 1-2 postoculars, temporals 2 + 3, small and scarcely differentiated from ordinary scales, 7-9 supralabials, the 2nd usually not touching the prefrontal, the 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye, the last four or five very small, 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, the posterior pair of which are separated by scales

27-33 scale-rows on the neck, 39-45 on the body, the scales imbricate throughout and strongly keeled, V 296-330, distinct throughout, not twice as broad as the adjacent scales, preanals considerably enlarged

Hemipenis forked near the tip and spinose throughout, the spines being short and thickest at the base

Olivaceous to brownish above, yellowish below, with from 40 to 60 narrow dark bands more or less uniform in width, sometimes incomplete ventrally Head yellow, with a dark streak along the upper lip and a dark triangular patch on the top of the head extending to the prefrontals

Total length ♂ 1080, tail 125 mm

Range Only recorded with certainty from the Bay of Bengal (Sandarbans) and the Burmese coast

336. *Hydrophis spiralis*.

Hydrus spiralis Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool iii, p 564, pl (Indian Ocean, London) — *Hydrophis spiralis*, Smith, Monogr. Sea Sn. 1926, p 48, Strohl, Ann Sci Nat Paris, viii, 1925, p 105; Volsee, Danish Sc Invest Iran, i, 1939, p 15
Leioselasma spiralis, Prater, J Bombay N. H S. xxx, 1924, p 174.

6 or 7 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs. Skull characters as in *H. cyanocinctus*. Head moderate; body elongate, not slender anteriorly, its greatest diameter posteriorly being twice, or a little more, that of the neck; eye small in the adult, frontal as long as its distance from the rostral or the end of the snout; 1 pre- and 1, rarely 2, postoculars, a single large anterior temporal often descending to the labial margin, 6–8 supralabials, the 2nd in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd, 4th and 5th, or only two of them, touching the eye, 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, both pairs of which are well developed and in contact with one another, usually a small scale at the oral margin after the 3rd or 4th infralabial.

25–31 scale-rows on the neck, 33–38 on the thickest part of the body (increase 4–8), the scales feebly imbricate throughout, smooth or with a small central tubercle or short keel. V. 295–362, distinct throughout, twice as broad as the adjacent scales, preanals considerably enlarged.

Hemipenis forked near the tip, and spinose throughout, except near the base, where there are longitudinal folds.

Yellowish or yellowish-green, the dorsal scales with black margins and with more or less complete narrow black annuli much narrower than their interspaces (2½–3 times), and feebly dilated vertebally. Dorsal spots often present between the bands, in the young a black ventral line may be present. Head in the young blackish, with a yellow horseshoe-shaped mark above, in the adult usually entirely yellow.

Four examples from the Persian Gulf have from 46 to 54 annuli, nine examples from the Indian coast have from 41 to 46 annuli, the specimen from Santubong, Borneo, has 36 bands, the type of *H. robusta* (type loc Persia) has 34 bands; the type of *H. temporalis* (type loc. unknown) has dorsal bars only.

Total length: ♂ 1620, tail 140, ♀ 1830, tail 120 mm.

Wall records a female from Madras measuring 2500 mm in total length (Journ Bombay N. H S. xx. 1911, p. 858) and another from Penang measuring 2745 mm (Journ Bombay N. H. S. xxii 1913, p. 404). Such large specimens are unusual.

Range From the Persian Gulf to the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago.

37 *Hydrophis cyanocinctus*.

Hydrophis cyanocinctus Daudin, 1803, Hist. Nat Rept vii, p 383 (based on Russell, ii, p 10, pl ix (Sandarbans); Smith, Monogr. Sea Sn 1926, p 56, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 358; Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch Franç 1935, p 32, and Serp Indoch 1936, p 353, fig; Volsøe, Danish Sc Invest Iran, i, 1939, p 17
Leioselasma cyanocincta, Prater, J Bombay N. H S xxx, 1924, p 173

5 or 6 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs Head moderate, body elongate, not slender anteriorly, compressed posteriorly, the greatest diameter in the adult being from two to two and a half times that of the neck; eye small in the adult, frontal usually as long as its distance from the rostral or the end of the snout, 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, usually 2 superposed anterior temporals, 7-8 supralabials, the 2nd in

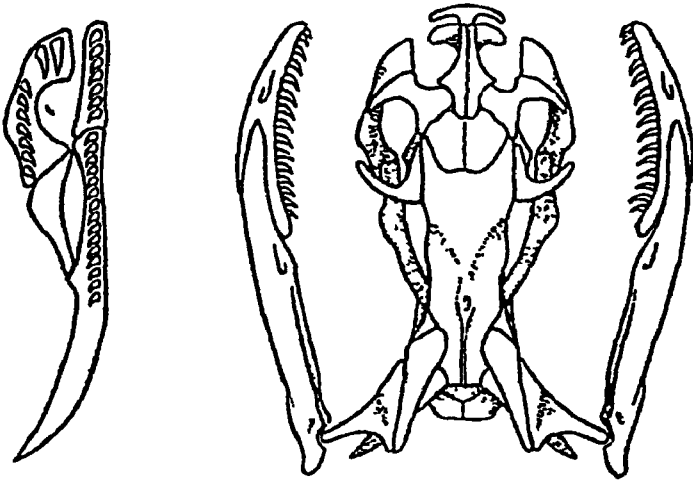


Fig 146 —Skull and palato-maxillary arch of *Hydrophis cyanocinctus*. (After Smith, Monogr. 1926)

contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd, 4th and 5th, or only two of them, touching the eye, 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, both pairs of which are well developed and in contact with one another or the posterior pair separated by scales; a series of small scales at the oral margin after the 2nd or 3rd infralabial

(25) 27-35 scale-rows on the neck, 37-47 on the thickest part of the body (increase 8-14), the scales imbricate throughout, usually with a central keel, which may be broken into a series of two or three tubercles, V 290-390, distinct throughout, anteriorly about twice as broad as the adjacent dorsal scales, posteriorly a little less preanals much enlarged.

Hemipenis forked near the tip, and spinose throughout, except near the base, where there are longitudinal folds, the edges of the sulcus are also strongly spinose.

Total length - ♂ 1500, tail 130 ; ♀ 1885, tail 135 mm.

The coloration and markings of this species, although at first sight very variable, are not so confusing if certain factors are remembered. The markings may be present or almost entirely absent, disappearing usually as age advances, but when present the general pattern is constant. Aberrant individuals are to be met with, but they are rare.

The young when born are olivaceous or yellowish in colour with black markings, which may be arranged as follows.—

1. Complete annuli broadening dorsally. This form is by far the most common

2 Complete annuli broadening dorsally and again ventrally, sometimes leaving a space on the flank free of colour.

3 Dorsal bars tapering to a point on the sides

In addition there may be a black ventral stripe ; the head is black or dark olive, often with a light horseshoe-shaped mark above. As age advances the ventral stripe and ventral portion of the annulus become less distinct, and in the adult may be entirely lost, the head with age becomes olivaceous or yellowish, the horseshoe-shaped mark does not persist

The following colour patterns may be defined ; they bear no relation to geographical distribution :—

1. Annuli complete, with or without a stripe along the belly.

2 Annuli well marked above, feebly marked or absent beneath

3 Annuli feebly marked above, uniform beneath.

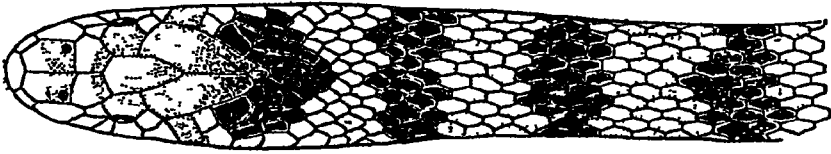
4 Black bars on the back only.

5 A dark stripe along the back ; neck with dark transverse bars

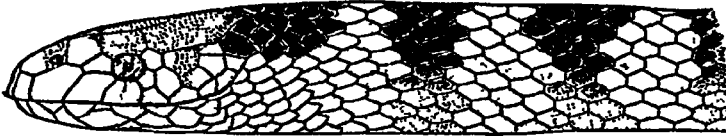
Range From the Persian Gulf to Japan and the Indo-Australian Archipelago. It is common in the Persian Gulf and on the west coast of the Indian Peninsula and shores of Ceylon, but rare on the east coast of India (Wall) ; it has not yet been recorded from the Burmese coast, but is common in the Straits of Malacca, it is common along the western shores of the Gulf of Siam, but has not been met with on the eastern side, it is common at Cap St Jacques, about Manila Bay, and appears to be the commonest sea snake in the Straits of Hainan. South of the equator it is rare

Variation. The anterior temporal shields show considerable variation, and whether they should be regarded as one or two is sometimes perplexing. Usually there are two placed one above the other, the suture between them being horizontal ; but the suture may be obliquely placed or even almost vertical,

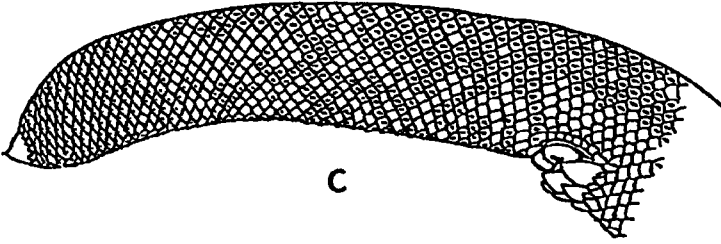
so, that the two shields, instead of being superposed, are placed one behind the other ; or division may have occurred, by which



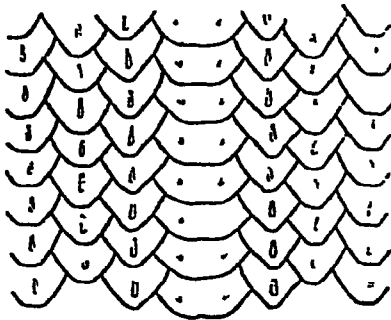
A



B



C



D

Fig. 147 — *Hydrophis cyanocinctus* A, B Dorsal and lateral views of head (B.M. 85 11 7 28) C Tail D Belly scales, $\times 2$

a large and a small shield result. More rarely division has not taken place and the anterior shield is single.

338. *Hydrophis obscurus*.

Hydrophis obscura Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vii, p 375 (based on Russell, n, pl. viii, Sandarbans, London.),—*Hydrophis obscurus*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn. 1926, p 66.

Dolichodira diadema, Prater, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1924, p 173

5 to 7 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs Head small, body long and slender anteriorly, much compressed posteriorly, its greatest diameter being from three to four times that of the neck; eye moderate, frontal shorter than its distance from the rostral, 1 pre- and 1, rarely 2, postoculars, a single large anterior temporal, often descending to the border of the mouth, followed by another large shield, 6-7 supralabials, the 2nd in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd and 4th touching the eye, the last 1-2 very small. 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, both pairs of which are well developed, the posterior pair usually separated by scales

19-23 scale-rows on the neck, 29-37 on the body (increase 8-14), the scales imbricate throughout and smooth or with a central keel Ventrals distinct throughout, 300-338, not twice as broad as the adjacent dorsal scales, bicarinate, preanals moderately enlarged

Hemipenis forked near the tip and spinose throughout, the spines being almost uniform in size

The young are black or bluish-black, with from 35 to 55 bright yellow or whitish dorsal bars, which on the hinder part of the body may become complete bands Head with a curved yellow mark above, its apex on the snout and extending along either side to the parietal shields With age these markings become less distinct, and in old individuals the back is of a more or less uniform greyish or bluish hue with the under parts yellowish

Total length ♂ 1190, tail 135. ♀ 1200, tail 110 mm.

Range From the east coast of India (Madras, Orissa coast, Chilka Lake, Sandarbans, Chittagong) to the Burmese coast (mouth of the Irrawadi, and Mergui Archipelago). It is a common species at the mouths of the Hooghli River, and Annandale states that it is common in the Chilka Lake, the waters of which vary in salinity in different places Gunther's type of *H. latifasciata* was sent from Mergui, but the specimens listed by Slater (1891) from the same locality are *H. caeruleus*

According to Annandale the species is mainly, though not exclusively, an inhabitant of brackish water

339 *Hydrophis klossi*.

Hydrophis klossi Boulenger, 1912, Rept. Malay Pen p. 190 (coast of Selangor, Malay Peninsula; London); Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 6

5 or 6 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs. Head

small, body long and slender anteriorly, compressed posteriorly, its greatest diameter from 2 to 3 times that of the neck, snout somewhat projecting; eye moderate. Frontal small, shorter than its distance from the end of the snout, 1 pre- and 1 post-ocular, a large anterior temporal; 5, rarely 6, supralabials, 2nd in contact with the prefrontal, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 6th, if present, very small; 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, both pairs of which are well developed.

23-25, rarely 27, scale-rows on the neck, 31-37, rarely 39, on the body (increase 8-12), the scales imbricate throughout and smooth or feebly keeled. V. distinct throughout, 360-413, not twice as broad as the adjacent dorsal scales; preanals much enlarged.

Hemipenis not forked; it is spinose throughout, the spines being long and somewhat slender.

Greyish or greenish above, greenish or yellowish below, with from 50 to 75 dark bands, broadest dorsally and broader than their interspaces; sometimes a black ventral line, or the neck and fore-body below may be entirely black. Head blackish to olivaceous, sometimes with an indistinct horseshoe-shaped mark above. In the young the markings are more clearly defined.

Total length · ♂ 1090, tail 115; ♀ 1300, tail 110 mm.

Range. The coasts of Perak and Selangor in the Straits of Malacca and the eastern coast of Peninsular Siam as far south as Patani.

Variation. Specimens from the Gulf of Siam have more scale-rows and ventrals than those from the Straits of Malacca, but the difference is not great.

Straits of Malacca: 23-25 scale-rows on the neck; 31-35 on the body; ventrals 361-386 (av. 372 17 specimens examined).

Gulf of Siam: 23-27 scale-rows on the neck; 33-39 on the body V. 360-413 (av. 388 · 41 specimens examined).

27 scale-rows on the neck occurs in one specimen only, and 39 on the body in one.

On the whole, the head shields of this species are very constant in character. The frontal shield is the most variable, in the type-specimen it is minute; fragmentation of the labials rarely occurs.

340. *Hydrophis bituberculatus*.

Hydrophis bituberculatus Peters, 1872, Mon. Akad. Berlin, p. 855, pl. 11, (Colombo; Berlin); Smith, Monogr. Sea Sn. 1926, p. 72.

7 or 8 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs. Head moderate, body elongate, not markedly slender anteriorly, much

compressed posteriorly, its greatest diameter being nearly four times that of the neck, eye moderate, frontal shorter than its distance from the rostral - 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, a single small anterior temporal followed by another large scale; 6-7 supralabials, the 2nd in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, the posterior pair of which are larger than the anterior.

27 scale-rows on the neck, 48 on the thickest part of the body, the posterior scales subimbricate, smooth or with a short central keel V 276, twice as broad as the adjacent scales anteriorly, a little narrower posteriorly.

Grey above, yellowish-grey below.

Total length 1120, tail 110 mm

Known from a single adult specimen said to have been captured at Colombo

341. *Hydrophis stricticollis*.

Hydrophis stricticollis Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 376, fig. (India, London); Smith, Monogr. Sea Sn 1926, p. 73

8 to 11 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs Head small, body long and slender anteriorly, compressed posteriorly, its greatest diameter being from two and a half to three and a half times that of the neck, eye moderate, frontal as long as or shorter than its distance from the rostral; 1 pre- and 1-2 postoculars, a single anterior temporal, rarely divided into two; 7-8 supralabials, the 2nd in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd and 4th touching the eye, the last 2-3 small, 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, both pairs of which are well developed.

34-41 scale-rows on the neck, 45-55 on the body, the posterior more or less hexagonal in shape, subimbricate and keeled V. 374-452, distinct throughout, not twice as broad as the adjacent dorsal scales, bicarinate

Hemipenis forked at the junction of the distal one-third and proximal two-thirds; it is spinose throughout, the spines at the proximal end being short, stout and arranged in oblique series, those at the distal end somewhat longer and not so regularly arranged

Greyish or olivaceous above, yellowish below, with from 45 to 65 dark bands which are broadest dorsally and tend to disappear with age. Head black to olive, with yellow markings chiefly upon the snout and along the sides of the head

Total length: ♂ 1050, tail 140; ♀ 1050, tail 90 mm.

Range. The east coast of India north of Orissa and the coast of Burma as far south as the Gulf of Martaban.

342 *Hydrophis torquatus diadema*.

Hydrophis torquatus Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 369, pl 25 (Penang, London)—*Hydrophis torquatus*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 76, Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch Franç, 1935, p 39, and Serp Indoch 1936, p 359

8 to 10 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs. Head moderate, body elongate, not very slender anteriorly, compressed posteriorly, its greatest diameter being from 2 to 3 times that of the neck, eye moderate, frontal shorter than its distance from the rostral, 1 pre- and 1-2 postoculars, usually a single anterior temporal, 7, sometimes 8, supralabials, the 2nd in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd and 4th touching the eye, the last 2-3 very small, 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, both pairs of which are well developed and in contact with one another, or the posterior pair separated by scales

29-35 scale-rows on the neck, 35-42 on the body, the posterior scales more or less hexagonal in shape, subimbricate, and with a central tubercle or short keel V 271-343, distinct throughout, not twice as broad as the adjacent dorsal scales, preanals considerably enlarged

Hemipenis forked near the tip and spinose throughout, except near the base, where it is almost smooth, the spines at the proximal end are stout and closely set

Greyish or greenish-grey above, yellowish-white below, with from 55 to 68 dark grey or blackish annuli, often incomplete ventrally Head black or dark olive, with yellow markings across the snout and along the sides of the head, or mottled or spotted with yellow, with age the markings lose definition, but they may be retained throughout life.

Total length ♂ 895, tail 115 ♀ 1045, tail 105 mm

Range. The Gulf of Siam north of lat 12°, Canton Very common in the Bight of Bangkok at the mouths of the Meklong and Chantabun Rivers

Three forms can be distinguished, varying slightly from one another in scalation and coloration Only one, *H t diadema*, inhabits the area covered by this work The other two are found on the east and west coasts respectively of the Malay Peninsula

343. *Hydrophis ornatus ornatus*,

Aturia ornata Gray, 1842, Zool Misc p 61 (Indian Ocean, London)—*Hydrophis ornatus*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 81, Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch Franç, 1935, p 42, and Serp Indoch 1936, p. 363, Volsee, Danish Sc Invest Iran, 1, 1939, p 18

10 to 13 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs, head large, its breadth (between the eyes) in the adult half or more than

half its length (to end of parietals) , body robust, not markedly elongate, the greatest diameter posteriorly being about twice that of the neck , eye moderate Frontal as long as its distance from the rostral or the end of the snout , 1 pre- and 2-3 postoculars ; 7-8 supralabials, the 2nd normally in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd and 4th touching the eye ; 2 superposed anterior temporals , 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, the anterior pair of which are well developed and in contact with one another, the posterior pair ill developed and separated by scales Usually no small scales at the oral margin between the infralabials

28-37 scale-rows on the neck in males, 31-45 in females, 33-45 on the body in males, 39-55 in females (increase 4-12), the posterior scales more or less hexagonal in shape, as broad as or broader than long, subimbricate or juxtaposed, with a central tubercle or short keel V. 209-260 in males, 236-312 in females, distinct throughout, about twice as broad as the adjacent scales anteriorly, narrower posteriorly . preanals feebly enlarged

Hemipenis forked near the tip and spinose throughout, the spines being almost uniform in size

Pale greyish or olivaceous, sometimes almost white, above, with broad dark bars or rhomboidal spots separated by narrow interspaces , below yellowish or whitish , head olivaceous

Total length . ♂ 950, tail 115 , ♀ 860, tail 80 mm

Range. From the Persian Gulf to China and the coast of New Guinea . in Australasian waters it is replaced by *H ocellatus*

344 *Hydrophis lapemoides*.

Aturia lapemoides Gray, 1849, Cat. Sn Brit Mus p 46 (Ceylon, Madras, London) — *Hydrophis lapemoides*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn, 1926, p 86 ; Kennedy, J Bombay N H S xxxix, 1937, p 748 ; Volsee, Danish Sc Invest Iran, 1, 1939, p 19

8 to 11 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs Head moderate, body robust in the adult, not markedly elongate, its greatest diameter being from two to three times that of the neck ; eye moderate , frontal as long as its distance from the rostral or the end of the snout , 1 pre- and 2-3 postoculars , temporals small, 2+3 or 3+3 , 8 supralabials, the 2nd usually in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd and 4th, or 3rd to 5th touching the eye, the last 3-4 small , 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, both pairs of which are well developed and in contact with one another, or the posterior pair separated , a series of small scales at the oral margin after the 2nd infralabial

29-35 scale-rows on the neck, 43-51 on the body (increase

12-20), those posterior hexagonal or more or less quadrilateral in shape, as broad as or broader than long, juxtaposed or very feebly imbricate, with a feeble tubercle or short central keel in the adult female, with a strong spinose tubercle in the adult male V. 314-372 (290-404, Volæge) distinct throughout, bicarinate, more than twice as broad as the adjacent dorsal scales anteriorly, narrower posteriorly; preanals moderately enlarged

Hemipenis as in *ornatus*.

The young are yellowish or whitish in colour, with from 33 to 43 blackish bands, usually strongly dilated dorsally and much narrowed ventrally, head black, with a yellow curved mark, its apex at the nostrils and extending backwards to the temporal shields. With age the markings become paler and greenish in colour, and usually disappear completely on the ventral part of the body, the curved mark on the head may or may not persist.

The only variation in colour I am aware of is in the type of *H. stewarti*, (type loc Orissa) in which the dorsum is of a more or less uniform grey colour with indistinct darker markings.

Total length ♂ 960, tail 90, ♀ 925, tail 70 mm.

Range. The Persian Gulf and coasts of India and Ceylon. A rare species, only known from a few examples.

Distinguished from *H. ornatus* by the different scale-formula, the more quadrangular and juxtaposed scales, and the markings on the head

The difference in bodily configuration between the slender juvenile and the robust adult is strongly marked in this species, the young apparently attaining almost their full length before they add much to their girth

345. *Hydrophis mamillaris*.

Anguis mamillaris Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vii, p. 340 (based on Russell, i, p. 49, pl. 44; Vizagapatam).—*Hydrophis mamillaris*, Smith, Monogr. Ser. Sn. 1926, p. 88.—*Leioscelsus mamillaris*, Prater, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxx, 1924, p. 173

8 to 10 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs. Head small, body slender anteriorly, much compressed posteriorly, the greatest diameter being 3-4 times that of the neck; eye moderate; frontal as long as its distance to the rostral or the end of the snout, 1 pre- and 2 postoculars; temporals variable, usually 2-3 anterior superposed shields, 7 supralabials, 2nd in contact with the prefrontal, 3rd and 4th touching the eye, last 3 very small; 4 infralabials in contact with the genuals, both pairs of which are well developed; usually a small scale at the oral margin between 3rd and 4th infralabials

25-29 scale-rows on the neck, 35-43 on the body (increase

10-15), the posterior scales more or less hexagonal in shape, juxtaposed or feebly imbricate, with a central tubercle or short keel V 302-390, distinct throughout, bicarinate, not twice as broad as the adjacent scales

Hemipenis as in *ornatus*.

Yellowish or greyish, with from 44 to 55 broad black bands on the body, about twice as broad as their interspaces, slightly expanded dorsally, and usually connected along the line of the ventrals, head entirely black or with a yellow streak on the temporal region

Total length ♂ 800, tail 70, ♀ 825, tail 70 mm

Range The coasts of India, recorded from the Gulf of Cambay, Bombay and Vizagapatam.

A rare snake

346. *Hydrophis caerulescens*.

Hydrus caerulescens Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool iii, p 561 (Indian Ocean, London) — *Hydrophis caerulescens*, Smith, 1926, Monogr. Sea Sn p 90, Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch Franç 1935, p 38, and Serp Indoch. 1936, p 357 — *Polyodontophis caerulescens*, Prater, J. Bombay N.H S xxx, 1924, p 174

14 to 18 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs Head moderately small, body not very slender anteriorly, compressed posteriorly, its greatest diameter being from 2-3 times that of the neck; eye moderate; frontal usually shorter than its distance from the rostral, 1 pre- and 1, sometimes 2, postoculars; 2, sometimes 3, anterior temporals, 7-8 supralabials, the 2nd in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, the posterior pair usually poorly developed and separated by scales.

31-43 scale-rows on the neck, 38-54 on the body (increase 6-14), the posterior subimbricate and with truncated tips, all strongly keeled V. 253-334, distinct throughout, not twice as broad as the adjacent dorsal scales.

Hemipenis forked close to the tip, thus is furnished with coarse, flattened, papilla-like structures arranged in longitudinal series, the remainder of the organ is spinose, the spines being of moderate size, closely set and becoming slightly larger as they approach the base.

Bluish-grey above, yellowish-white below, with from 40-60 broad bands, about twice as broad as their interspaces on the fore part of the body, tapering towards the belly, where they may be incomplete on the thicker part of the body. With age these markings usually become indistinct, and in some old individuals are scarcely recognizable, the back being almost uniform grey Head black in the young, sometimes with a

light curved mark, dark grey in the adult, with or without a light streak behind the eye.

Total length · ♂ 820, tail 100 ; ♀ 740, tail 65 mm

Range From Bombay to China and the Malay Archipelago Recorded between Bombay and Karwar on the western coast of India and from Madras northwards to the mouths of the Ganges on the eastern coast, in southern Burma from the Mergu Archipelago, common in the Straits of Malacca and in the Gulf of Siam.

The following variations in scalation can be recorded.—

<i>Locality</i>	<i>Scale-rows</i>		<i>Ventrals</i>	<i>No of spec examined</i>
	<i>Neck</i>	<i>Body</i>		
W coast of India	35-39	45-49	269-315	7
Bengal coast	38-43	47-54	292-308	5
Gulf of Siam	31-37	38-49	262-334	38
Cochin China	34-38	43-44	285-320	3

347. *Hydrophis fasciatus*.

Hydrus fasciatus Schneider, 1799, Hist. Amphib 1, p 240 (East Indies; Berlin) — *Hydrophis fasciatus*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 94, and Dana Rep. no 8, 1935, p. 4, Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch 1935, p 46, and Serp Indoch 1936, p 365 — *Micromastophis fasciatus*, Prater, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1924, p. 173

5 or 6 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs Head very small, body long and very slender anteriorly, much compressed posteriorly, its greatest diameter being from two and a half to four times that of the neck, eye moderate, frontal usually at least as long as its distance from the rostral, 1 pre- and 1, rarely 2, postoculars, a single large anterior temporal succeeded by another scale as large or larger, a series of from 2 to 4 small scales behind the parietals and between the posterior temporals, 6 or 7, rarely 5, supralabials, the 2nd in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd and 4th touching the eye, the last 1 or 2 very small, 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, both pairs of which are well developed, a small scale usually present at the oral margin between the 3rd and 4th infralabials

25-33 scale-rows on the neck, 39-58 on the body, the posterior subimbricate and more or less hexagonal in shape, with a central tubercle or short keel V. 323-514, distinct throughout, not twice as broad as the adjacent scales, bicarinate.

Hemipenis forked near the tip; it is spinose throughout, the spines being long and slender and of almost uniform size.

Head, neck and anterior part of body shiny black to dark olive, with pale yellowish oval spots on the sides or connected as dorsal bars, posteriorly greyish above, whitish below,

with dark dorsal rhomboidal spots which may extend down the sides of the body and form complete annuli in the young.

Total length ♂ 1110, tail 100, ♀ 990, tail 75 mm.

Two races can be distinguished —

Hydrophis fasciatus fasciatus

28-33 scale-rows on the neck, 47-58 on the body (increase 20-27), V 414-514

Range The coasts of India and Burma and the Straits of Malacca. Rare on the western coast of the Indian Peninsula (Karachi, Malabar), common on the eastern coast from Madras northwards to the Sandarbans

Hydrophis fasciatus atriceps.

25-30 scale-rows on the neck, 39-49 on the body (increase 12-20), V 323-452. Coloration as in the typical form, but completely banded specimens are more frequently met with

Range. From the Gulf of Siam to the Gulf of Tong-King (Hainan) and through the Indo-Australian seas to the north coast of Australia

Very common in Indo-Chinese waters.

348 *Hydrophis parviceps*.

Hydrophis parviceps Smith, 1935, Dana Rept no 8, p 5, fig head (coast of Cochun China, Copenhagen)

Like *H. fasciatus*, differing as follows —

19 scale-rows on the neck, 33 on the body, those posterior strongly keeled, the keel extending nearly the whole length of the scale V. 340

Known only from the type-specimen

349. *Hydrophis brookei*.

Hydrophis brookei Günther, 1872, P Z S p 597, fig (Sarawak, Borneo, London), Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 99, Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch Franc 1935, p 48, and Serp Indoch 1936, p 367

5 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs. Head very small, body long and very slender anteriorly, much compressed posteriorly, its greatest diameter being from two and a half to three times that of the neck, eye moderate, frontal as long as or shorter than its distance from the rostral, 1 pre- and 1, rarely 2, postoculars, a single large anterior temporal sometimes reaching the border of the mouth and succeeded by another large scale which may be divided in two by a vertical suture, a series of from 4 to 7 small scales behind the parietals and between the posterior temporals; 6, sometimes only 5, supralabials, the 2nd in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd

and 4th touching the eye, the 6th very small, 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, both pairs of which are well developed and in contact with one another

25–31 scale-rows on the neck, 37–45 on the body (increase 9–16); those posterior subimbricate and more or less hexagonal in shape, usually with a central tubercle or short keel V 328–414, distinct throughout, not twice as broad as the adjacent dorsal scales, bicarinate, preanals considerably enlarged

Hemipenis as in *cærulescens*, but the fork situated a little further from the tip

Greyish above, yellowish-white below, with from 60 to 80 dark grey bands or bars. Anteriorly these completely encircle the body, are of uniform breadth throughout, and about twice as broad as their interspaces, posteriorly they narrow on the sides of the body and may be incomplete ventrally. Head blackish or greyish, with a curved yellow mark extending across the snout and backwards along the sides of the head; often a connecting band of yellow across the frontal and another across the parietal shields. With age these markings lose definition.

Total length ♂ 1035, tail 115, ♀ 965, tail 75 mm

Range. The Straits of Malacca as far north as Trang, the Gulf of Siam, the coast of Cochin China and southern Annam, and the north coasts of Borneo and Java

Genus **THALASSOPHIS.**

Thalassophis (in part) Schmidt, 1852, Abh Naturw Ver Hamburg, ii, p. 75 (type *anomalus*), Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 103

Maxillary bone not extending forwards as far as the palatine, poison fangs followed after an interval by 5 teeth. Head shields more or less broken up; nostrils supero-lateral, a pair of internasals usually present, separating the nasals. Body short, stout, scales juxtaposed, in 31–35 rows. V. distinct, not or scarcely larger than the adjacent scales

A single species.

350. *Thalassophis anomalus*.

Thalassophis anomala Schmidt, 1852, Abh Naturw Ver Hamburg, ii, p 81, col pl (Java, Hamburg)—*Thalassophis anomalus*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 104, Bourret, Serp Marins Indochine Franç 1935, p 50

Head short, body stout, eye moderate, rostral divided into 4–5 pieces; a pair of elongated shields separating the nasals, frontal small, variable in size, sometimes partly or completely divided, 1 pre- and 1–2 postoculars, temporals small, not strongly differentiated from ordinary scales, 2+3 or

3+3, 7-8 supralabials, the second normally in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye, 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, the posterior pair of which is smaller than the anterior and separated by scales

27-30 scale-rows on the neck, 31-35 on the body, the posterior scales hexagonal in shape, as broad as or broader than long, juxtaposed and strongly keeled V scarcely, if any, broader than the adjacent dorsal scales, 210-256, bicarinate, preanal shields feebly enlarged

Hemipenis not forked. it is spinose throughout, the spines being of moderate size, closely set and becoming slightly larger as they approach the base

Pale grey above, whitish below, with dark dorsal bars (30-36 in number), broader than their interspaces and often connected vertebrally, tapering to a point on the sides or continued as narrow bands round the body. The young may have a pale mark across the snout and extending backwards along either side of the head

Total length ♂ 810, tail 90, ♀ 755, tail 85 mm

Range Gulf of Siam (Chantabun, Hua Hin), Cambodia, and the west coast of Cochin China; the Malay Archipelago

Genus **KOLPOPHIS.**

Kolpophis Smith, 1926, Monogr Sea Sn p 106 (type *annandalei*).

Maxillary bone not extending forwards as far as the palatine. poison fangs followed after an interval by 6-7 teeth Head shields more or less broken up, nostrils superior. Body short, stout, covered with small, irregular, juxtaposed scales, 74-93 round the thickest part of the body. V. small, but distinct

A single species

351. *Kolpophis annandalei*.

Distira annandalei Laidlaw, 1901, P Z S p 579, pl 35 (Patani Bay, London) — *Kolpophis annandalei*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn. 1926, p 106, Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch. Franç 1935, p 55.

Head large, body short, stout, its greatest diameter posteriorly not more than twice that of the neck, eye moderate, rostral entire, nasal and prefrontal shields usually divided, supraocular, frontal and parietal usually entire, the two latter variable in size, parietals separated by small scales, 9-11 supralabials, subject to much fragmentation: temporals small and irregular; usually no distinct genials, infralabials when defined usually separated from the oral margin by small scales

62-82 scales round the neck, 74-93 round the body, those posterior more or less hexagonal in shape, subimbricate or juxtaposed, smooth, or with a short keel V. 320-368, distinct throughout

Hemipenis as in the preceding species

Yellowish, with pale grey dorsal bars, 35-45 in number, much broader than their interspaces and tapering to a point on the sides, or with the dorsum entirely grey, below whitish; head olivaceous

Total length · ♂ 910, tail 120 mm

Range. The Malay Peninsula (Patani Bay), Peninsular Siam (Singgora), Cochin China (Cap St Jacques), S Annam (Phan-thiet), Java.

Genus LAPEMIS.

Lapemis Gray, 1835, Illus Ind Zool n, col pl lxxxvii, fig 2 (type *curtus*), Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 108

Enhydria, Boulenger, 1890, F. B I p 396

Maxillary bone extending forwards as far, or nearly as far, as the palatine, poison fangs followed after an interval by from 3 to 6 teeth Head shields entire or the parietals divided, nostrils superior, nasals in contact with one another Body short, stout, covered with squarish or hexagonal, juxtaposed scales, the outer 3-4 rows larger than the others, V small, usually distinct anteriorly, vestigial or absent posteriorly

Range From the coasts of Asia (Persian Gulf to Japan) to the shores of tropical Australia

Key to the Species.

Parietals normally entire, ventrals usually very small or absent in the posterior three-quarters of the body	..	<i>hardwickii</i> , p 468
Parietals broken up, ventrals usually distinct throughout	..	<i>curtus</i> , p 470

352 *Lapemis hardwickii*.

Lapemis hardwickii Gray, 1835, Ill Ind Zool n, pl 87, fig 2 (Penang, London), Smith, Monogr. Sea Sn 1926, p 108, Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch Franç 1935, p 52, and Serp. Indoch 1936, p 371.

Head large, body short, stout, the diameter of the neck being half or more than half the greatest diameter of the body; eye moderate, frontal not longer than its distance to the rostral, prefrontal normally in contact with the second supralabial sometimes by fission of its hinder extremity a pseudo-loreal is formed, 1 pre- and 1-2 postoculars 2, rarely 3, anterior temporals 7-8 supralabials, the 3rd and 4th

touching the eye, the last 2-3 very small, 3-4 infralabials in contact with the genuals, both pairs of which are variable in size and are usually separated by small scales

23-31 scale-rows on the neck in males, 27-35 in females; 25-27 on the body in males, 33-41 in females, the scales

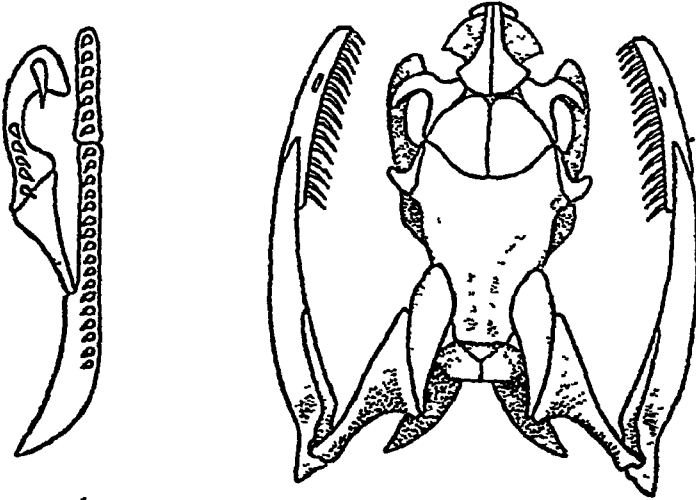


Fig. 148 —Skull and palato-maxillary arch of *Lapemis hardwickii*.
(After Smith, Monogr 1926)

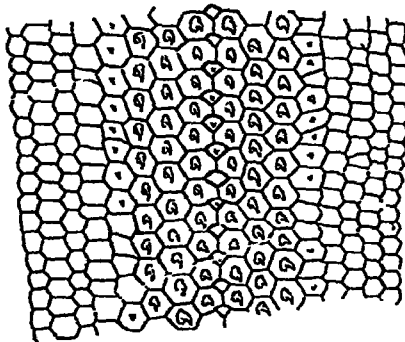


Fig 149 —*Lapemis hardwickii* Scales of belly The outlines of the ventral shields have been emphasized

hexagonal or squarish, the lowermost rows with a central tubercle or short keel which in adult males may become strongly spinose V. 114-186 in males, 141-230 in females, not as large as the adjacent scales except quite anteriorly, frequently absent altogether, uni- or bituberculate, pre-anals feebly enlarged

Hemipenis forked near the tip, it is spinose throughout, the spines being of moderate size, closely set and becoming slightly larger as they approach the base.

Greenish or yellowish-olive above, whitish below, with from 35 to 50 pale olive to dark grey dorsal bars which taper to a point on the sides. Variations from this pattern are frequent. The dorsal bars may be continued round the body as complete bands, a narrow dark ventral stripe may be present, or less frequently a broad irregular band. Coalescence of the dorsal bars often occurs in adults, so that the entire back may be uniform in coloration. Head pale olive to black, with or without yellow markings across the snout and along the sides of the head.

Total length 860, tail 85 mm

Range From the Mergui Archipelago to southern Japan and the coast of north Australia, common in the Mergui Archipelago, the Straits of Malacca and the Gulf of Siam.

353 *Lapemis curtus*.

Hydrus curtus Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool iii, p 562 (type-loc unknown, London) — *Lapemis curtus*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 112, Prater, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1924, p 174, Kennedy, J Bombay, N H S xxxix, 1937, p 748, Volzøe, Danish Sc Invest Iran, i, 1939, p 21

Head large, body short, stout, the diameter of the neck being half or more than half the greatest diameter of the body, eye moderate, frontal as long as or shorter than its distance from the rostral, 1 pre- and 1-2 postoculars, 2-3 anterior temporals, 7 supralabials, the 2nd normally in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd and 4th touching the eye, parietals broken into small shields, 3-4 sublabials in contact with the genials, both pairs of which are variable in size and are usually separated by scales.

28-31 scale-rows on the neck in males, 31-35 in females, 33-39 on the body in males 36-43 in females, the scales hexagonal or squarish, the lowermost rows with a short central keel or tubercle which in adult males may become strongly spinose. V 154-168 in males 160-194 in females, very distinct anteriorly where they are broader than the adjacent dorsal scales, narrower, or sometimes broken up posteriorly, preanals feebly enlarged.

Hemipenis as in *hardwickii*, but the tip is not forked.

Light or dark olive or greyish above, whitish below, with from 45 to 55 narrow, dark, sometimes black, dorsal bands, tapering to a point on the flanks and often confluent along the vertebral line. In all the Cingalese specimens that I have seen the bands are extremely pale, in an adult example from Trevandrum the whole dorsum is dark grey and almost

uniformly coloured Head blackish in the young, olive or greyish in the adult, with or without a yellow curved mark above

Total length 850, tail 85 mm

Range From the shores of Arabia to the west coast of Peninsular India and Ceylon Wall states that it is common on the Malabar and Coromandel coasts I do not know of any definite records of its occurrence on the east coast of India, except two examples in the British Museum, caught about 100 years ago, and bearing the label Madras.

Genus **ASTROTIA.**

Astrotia Fischer, 1856, Abh Naturw Ver Hamburg, iii, p 38
(type *schizopholis* = *stokesi*), Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 113.

Maxillary bone not extending forwards as far as the palatine, which is curved outwards, 6 or 7 maxillary teeth behind the poison fangs Head shields entire, regular, nostrils, superior, nasal shields in contact with one another, body stout, covered with strongly imbricate scales, V completely divided in two, except quite anteriorly, the halves pointed or with the tip dentate

A single species

354. *Astrotia stokesi*.

Hydrus stokesi Gray, 1846, in Stoke's Discov Austral i, p 502, pl 3 (Australian seas, London)—*Astrotia stokesi*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 113, W P Lowe, see p 440

Head large, body short, stout, the diameter of the neck being more than half the greatest diameter of the body, eye moderate or small, frontal as long as, or a little longer than, its distance from the rostral, 1 pre- and 2 postoculars, 2-3 anterior temporals, 8-10 supralabials, the 2nd, and sometimes the 3rd, in contact with the prefrontal, the 4th-6th usually touching the eye, 10-12 infralabials, no distinct genials

37-47 scale-rows on the neck, 47-59 on the body, the scales strongly imbricate, pointed, keeled, the keels often broken up into tubercles, the scales on the posterior part of the body sometimes with dentate tips V 226-286, a few anterior ones entire, the rest completely divided longitudinally, the two halves overlapping and with bifid or dentate tips, preanals strongly enlarged

Hemipenis forked near the tip, and spinose throughout except near the base, where there are longitudinal folds

Yellowish or pale brown, with broad black or dark brown bands more or less complete, or with dorsal bars and ventral

spots Spots or narrow bars often present between the annuli Head dark olivaceous to yellowish

Asiatic examples have more or less complete bands (32-36) and the markings are retained into adult life

Total length ♂ 1200, tail 170, ♀ 1600, tail 190 mm

Range Recorded from the Mekran coast, Colombo, Bay of Patani on the east coast of the Malay Peninsula; Singapore; and the north coast of Australia

The most massive sea snake known, the only other species approaching it in dimensions being *Aepyurus lævis*. The girth of the type-specimen of *H. stokesi* is 260 mm. In this example, as in other adult specimens, the ventral shields project from the body in the posterior part to form a marked ridge

Genus MICROCEPHALOPHIS.

Microcephalophis Lesson, 1834, in *Bélang Voy Ind Orient* p. 320 (type *gracilis*) —Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 325, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 120

Hydrophis, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 398

Maxillary bone extending forwards as far as or a little farther than the palatine; poison fangs followed after an interval by 5 or 6 teeth Head shields entire, nostrils superior, nasals in contact with one another Head very small, body very long and slender anteriorly, 30-36 hexagonal, juxtaposed scales round the thickest part of the body, ventrals entire anteriorly, more or less completely divided by a longitudinal furrow posteriorly, the two halves being apposed to, or alternating with, one another

Range The coasts of Asia, from the Persian Gulf to southern China, Malaysia

Key to the Species.

Prefrontal not touching third supralabial, V. 220-350 *gracilis*, p 472
Prefrontal touching third supralabial, V. 404-468 .. *cantoris*, p 475

355. *Microcephalophis gracilis*.

Hydrus gracilis Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool iii, p 560 (type-loc unknown, London) —*Microcephalophis gracilis*, Smith, Monogr. Sea Sn 1926, p 121, and Dana Rep no 8, 1835; Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch. Franç 1935, p 60, and Serp Indoch 1936, p 378, fig head, Prater, J Bombay N H. S xxx, p 173, Kennedy, ibid xxxix, 1937, p 748, Volssø, Danish Sci Invest Iran, 1939, p 25

Head very small, elongate, body long and very slender anteriorly, much compressed posteriorly, its greatest diameter being four to five times that of the neck Snout projecting beyond the lower jaw; eye moderate, rostral large, extending well on to the upper surface of the snout, frontal

small, usually shorter than its distance from the rostral; 1 pre- and 1 postocular, 1 anterior temporal followed by another scale as large or larger; 6 supralabials, 2nd usually in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd and 4th touching the eye, 4 infralabials in contact with the gemals, both pairs of which are well developed and in contact with one another, no small scales at the oral margin between the infralabials

17-23 scale-rows on the neck, 29-43 on the body (increase 12-16), the posterior scales hexagonal, juxtaposed, broader than long, with 2-3 very small tubercles, one behind the other, the lowermost rows of scales a little larger than the others and with very prominent tubercles or dentate keels in adults V entire on the slender portion of the body and broader than the adjacent dorsal scales, completely divided posteriorly by a median furrow, the two halves being apposed to one another or alternating, preanals feebly enlarged

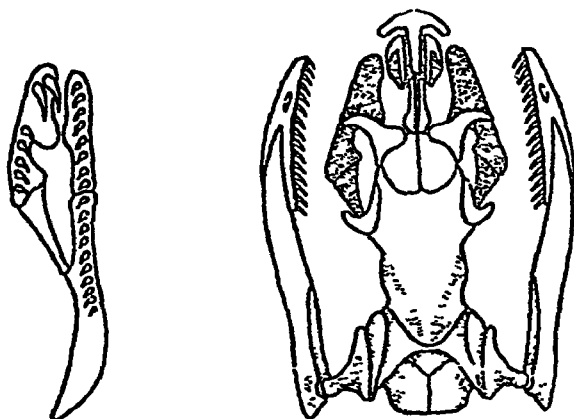


Fig 150—Skull and palato-maxillary arch of *Microcephalophis gracilis*. (After Smith, Monogr 1926.)

Hemipenis forked near the tip, it is spinose throughout, the spines being closely set and of almost equal size

The following variations in scalation can be recorded :—

Locality	Scale-rows		Ventrals	No of specs. examined
	Neck	Body		
Coasts of India and Burma	17-21	30-36	220-287	20
Straits of Malacca and Java	21-23	35-43	250-350	15
Gulf of Siam and coast of S Annam	17-21	29-37	212-360	20
Hong-Kong; Hainan.	17-19	31-35	244-286	3

The young are black with a series of whitish dorsal bands or oval lateral spots on the slender part of the body, and more or less complete bands posteriorly, altogether from

40–60 in number. With age the markings lose definition and the adult is usually greyish above, paler below, with the bars or bands indistinctly marked, particularly on the thickest part of the body, head olivaceous to yellowish.

Total length ♂ 950, tail 80, ♀ 1025, tail 95 mm

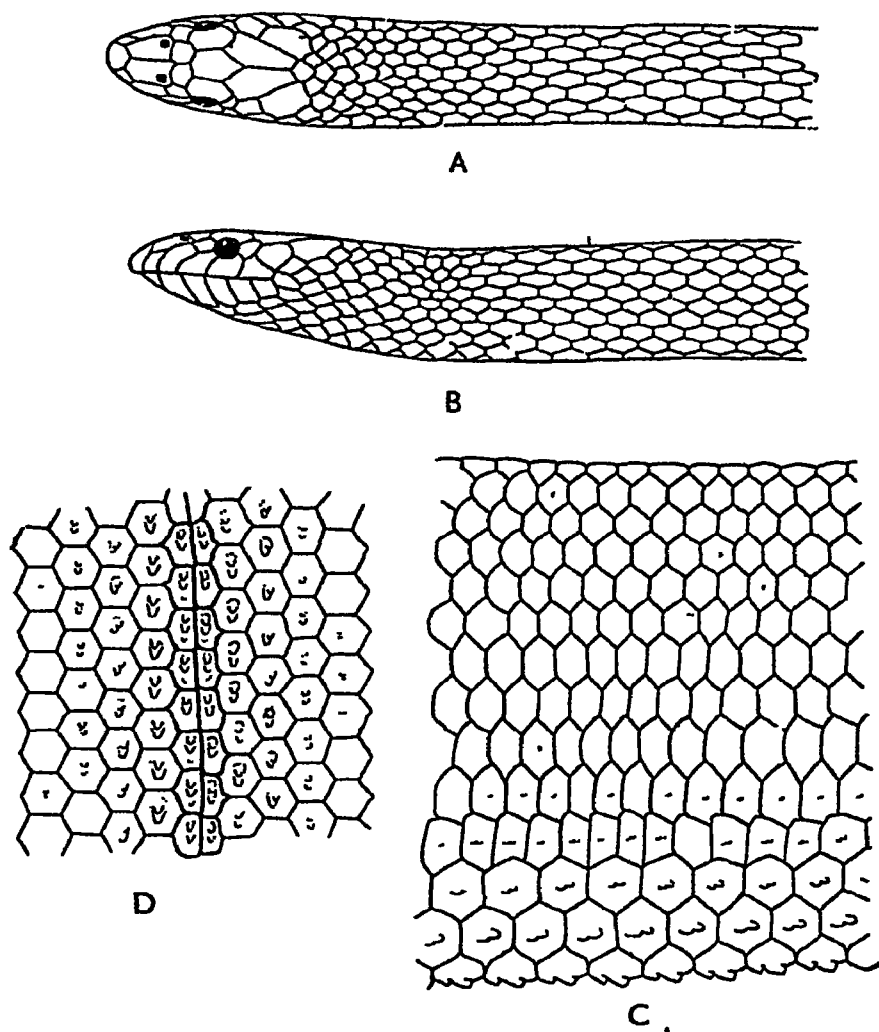


FIG 151 —*Microcephalophis gracilis* A. Dorsal, and B Lateral views of head C Scalation at thickest part of body D Scales of belly The outlines of the ventral shields have been emphasized

Range From the Persian Gulf to southern China and the coast of Australia Common, according to Wall, on the Malabar and Coromandel coasts, recorded in the Gulf of Siam from Patani and Singgora, in southern China from the Straits of Hainan and Macao.

356. *Microcephalophis cantoris*.

Hydrophis cantoris Günther, 1864, Rept. Brit Ind p 374 ("Penang", London) — *Microcephalophis cantoris*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 124

Head very small, elongate, body long and very slender anteriorly, much compressed posteriorly, its greatest diameter being from three to five times that of the neck. Snout projecting beyond the lower jaw; eye moderate. Rostral large, extending well on to the upper surface of the snout; frontal small, usually shorter than its distance from the rostral, 1 pre- and 1 postocular, a single large anterior temporal followed by another scale as large or larger, 6 supralabials, all entire, the 2nd and 3rd, or 3rd only, in contact with the prefrontal, the 3rd and 4th touching the eye; 4 infralabials in contact with the genials, both pairs of which are well developed and in contact with one another, no small scales at the oral margin between the infralabials.

23-25, rarely 21, scale-rows on the neck, 41-48 on the body (increase 18-24), those on the thickest part of the body juxtaposed, hexagonal, broader than long, the vertebral rows with two tubercles, one behind the other, the lower rows often with a bunch of three or four tubercles. V 404-468, entire on the slender part of the body and broader than the adjacent dorsal scales, behind more or less completely divided by a median furrow, the two halves apposed to one another or alternating, each half with 2, 3, or 4 tubercles, preanals feebly enlarged.

Hemipenis as in *gracilis*

Dark olive or greyish anteriorly with yellow cross-bars or lateral spots, behind greyish above, yellowish below, with dark bands or bars which become less distinct with age; sometimes a dark stripe along the ventrals. Head black in the young, greyish or yellowish-green in the adult.

Total length ♂ 1450, tail 120, ♀ 1880, tail 140 mm

Range Recorded with certainty from the west coast of India (Karachi to Cannanore), and on the east from Orissa, Sandarbans and Chittagong.

Genus PELAMIS.

Pelamis (in part) Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vii, p 361 (type *platurus*), Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 116, Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch Franç 1935, p 57, and Serp Indoch 1936, p 375, fig

Hydrus, Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 397

Maxillary bone not extending forwards as far as the palatine, poison fangs followed after an interval by from 7 to 11 teeth. Head shields entire, nostrils superior, nasals in contact with one another. Body short, stoutish, covered

with hexagonal or squarish, juxtaposed scales, 49-67 round the thickest part of the body, ventrals very small, divided by a median longitudinal furrow, or indistinguishable from the adjacent scales

A single species.

357. *Pelamis platurus*.

Anguis platurus Linn 1766, Syst Nat ed 12, p 391 (no type-locality) — *Pelamis platurus*, Smith, Monogr Sea Sn 1926, p 116; Bourret, Serp Marins Indoch Franc 1935, p 57, Volsee Danish Sci Invest Iran, 1939, p 23 — *Hydrus platurus*, Prater, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1924, p 172

Head narrow, snout elongate, body much compressed, the greatest diameter posteriorly being more than twice that of the neck. Frontal large, as long as its distance from the end of the snout, 1 or 2 pre- and 2 or 3 postoculars, temporals small, 2 or 3 anterior, 7 or 8 supralabials, 2nd in contact with the prefrontal, 4th and 5th below the eye, usually separated from it by suboculars, anterior pair of genials usually distinct and separated by small scales

49-67 scale-rows on the thickest part of the body, the scales more or less hexagonal or quadrangular in shape, the lowermost rows with two or three small tubercles, which are strongest in adult males. V 264-406, usually divided by a median longitudinal furrow or broken up and indistinguishable from the dorsal scales, preanals moderately enlarged

Hemipenis forked near the tip, it is spinose throughout, except near the base where there are longitudinal folds

Total length ♂ 720, tail 80, ♀ 880, tail 90 mm

Colour extremely variable. The colour-varieties listed here are those most generally met with, were all the intergrading forms to be included the list could be considerably extended

By far the most common and widely distributed colour-form is the typical one *bicolor*, or a modification of it, no 2 of this list. The forms with transverse markings (6 and 7) appear to be confined to the Indo-Malayan seas, specimens in which the black markings are pale brown or olive, and which appear to be albinotic forms, have so far been found only on the Indian coasts —

1 Black above, yellow or brown below, the two colours sharply defined, head black above, the upper lip usually yellow (*bicolor*). Widely distributed

2 Black above, brown below, with an intervening stripe of yellow, head as in 1. Widely distributed

3 A black vertebral stripe, sinuous in outline or broken into spots posteriorly, yellow on the sides and below, head as in 1 with the yellow on the lips more marked and extending on to the snout. Japan, China, Siam, India

4. Black above, yellow or brown below, with a lateral series of black spots which may be confluent into a stripe, head as in 1. India, Straits of Malacca, N Zealand, New Britain; Panama

5 Black above, yellow below, with a ventral series of black spots or bars, head as in 1. Straits of Malacca; Cape of Good Hope.

6 Yellow, with a black dorsal stripe anteriorly and transverse dorsal bars and spots on the sides and belly posteriorly, head with black variegations (*maculata*) Indian seas

7 Yellow, with black- or brown-edged, dorsal cross-bars and bars on the belly alternating with the dorsal markings, head with black variegations (*ornata*, *variegata*, *alternans*) Singapore; Borneo, Macassar; Java, Gulf of Siam.

Range The most widely distributed of all the Sea Snakes It has been met with hundreds of miles from land and, as far as I am aware, is found only in purely salt water and does not frequent the mouths of rivers It is a common species in the Indo-Australian seas, it extends north to southern Siberia and south to Tasmania Extending its range eastwards it has crossed the Pacific and established itself on the west coast of Central America It is known from all parts of the coast of East Africa, where it is not uncommon south of the equator, it is recorded from the Red Sea

Family VIPERIDÆ.

SOLENOGLYPHA.

Viperidæ Bonaparte, 1840, Mem Acc Torin (2) ii, p 393, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 417, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 463, Gadow, Amphib and Rept 1909, p 637, Werner, Arch Nat Berlin, 1922, A 8 13, p 200

Cranial characters as in the Elapidæ (p 406), but the maxillary bone vertically elongated, movably attached to the prefrontal and ectopterygoid, and bearing a very large poison fang on its posterior extremity, no other maxillary teeth Hypapophyses developed throughout the vertebral column.

The hemipenis is deeply forked in all the species included in this work

In the Solenoglypha the poison fangs reach their greatest development The channel for the conveyance of the venom is usually completely closed, so that no external groove is visible on the tooth When at rest the fangs lie horizontally in the mouth, and in no other position in fact could it be closed Usually there are two equally developed fangs, close to each other and side by side, on each maxilla Both of them function in biting The erect position is brought about

by a forward movement of the other bones forming the palato-maxillary arch, the maxilla revolving like a hinge on the anterior end of the prefrontal (p 498) The quadrate is long and slender and extends backwards in an almost horizontal plane from the supratemporal

The Viperidæ are widely distributed over the world, being found everywhere except in the Papuanian, Australian and Polynesian regions They are divided into two subfamilies commonly called the True Vipers (*Viperinæ*) and Pit-Vipers (*Crotalinæ*), which are distinguished as follows —

Maxillary bone not hollowed out, no pit in the side of the face

VIPERINÆ, p 480

Maxillary bone hollowed out above and forming with the prefrontal a deep pit between the eye and the nostril

CROTALINÆ, p 494

The *Viperinæ* are found only in the Old World They are arranged in ten genera, five of which occur in the Indian and Indo-Chinese subregions, the remainder in Africa

Nothing is known of the venom of *Azemiops*, *Pseudocerastes* and *Eristocophis*, but *Vipera russelli* and *Echis carinata* are amongst the most dangerous of snakes, and account for many deaths in India every year

The *Crotalinæ* or Pit-Vipers range from eastern Europe across Asia to Japan, the Indo-Australian Archipelago as far south as Timor, North, Central and South America They are divided into four genera To this subfamily belong the Rattlesnakes

The anatomy of the loreal pit has been described by West (1900) and Lynn (1931) It consists of two chambers separated from one another by a more or less vertical partition of semi-transparent tissue, the "pit membrane" The anterior and outer chamber is in free communication with the air through the aperture commonly termed the loreal pit, the posterior and inner chamber opens just in front of the eye (fig 159) In the Asiatic species of *Trimeresurus* the opening is within the orbital margin, and can be seen in preserved specimens as a comparatively large aperture by pressing back the anterior surface of the eyeball In *Ancistrodon* the opening is slightly more external and may be on the rim of the orbit or even just external to it. According to Lynn, "This opening is surrounded by a sphincter muscle and is capable of considerable dilatation, but is usually found to be tightly closed" Such is not my experience with the Asiatic species of *Trimeresurus*, but it is correct for the American species of that genus which I have examined

The two openings are connected externally by a sulcus, which in all the oriental species is more or less completely hidden by the scales which border it. In the Tibetan *Ancistrodon strauchi* the sulcus is exposed, the loreal pit being prolonged.

backwards almost to the orbit. A similar condition, but less marked, obtains in the Japanese *A. blomhoffi*. The epithelium lining the interior of both chambers is continuous with the external cuticle and is shed in sloughing. The "pit membrane" is thus formed of two layers, one from each chamber, and is richly supplied with nerves derived from the ophthalmic and supra-maxillary branches of the fifth cranial nerve.

Several theories have been put forward to explain the function of this pit, the most acceptable one being that it acts as an accessory organ of hearing. Whilst there can be no analogy between the sensory mechanism of the loreal pit and the ear, they have several points in common. The only truly sensory part of the loreal pit is the "pit membrane," and it is stretched across a cavity which could act as an amplifier of sound in the same way as does the auditory cup of lizards. Lynn has shown also that the loreal "organ" bears very striking resemblances to the chordotonal organ of insects, a structure which is known to be auditory in function. He states, however, there is no evidence yet available to show that it does act in that way.

The supranasal sac of *Pseudocerastes* and *Eristocophis* is discussed on p. 19.

In general the Asiatic Pit-Vipers are sluggish creatures, disinclined to move when encountered and leisurely in their manner of escape. Although they may be seen during the day-time, particularly in northern latitudes, where they come out to bask in the sun, they seek their food in the evening and at night. They are catholic in their tastes. Small mammals form their chief article of diet, but they will eat also lizards, frogs and toads; birds and their eggs and other snakes are less frequently taken. I have kept *Ancistrodon rhodostoma*, *Trimeresurus albolabris* and *T. popeorum* in captivity. They fed readily, but I seldom saw them drink. Their chief food was mice, and their method of striking to kill was always the same. The aim was made for the middle of the back, so that the long fangs could be buried deeply in the abdominal cavity. The venom thus injected produced almost instantaneous death, after a few convulsive movements the victim lay still, and the hold was then relaxed. If the body was missed and the mouse was struck on one of its limbs, or even the head, it invariably escaped, and the snake as a rule made no attempt to follow it. Death might result some hours or days later, but if the bite had been on a limb the animal often recovered.

The effects of the venom on human beings are well known. Pain, sometimes intense, at the seat of the bite, and swelling, often considerable, follows, but there is no constitutional

disturbance. Deaths have been recorded, but they are extremely rare, and they appear to have been caused by septic conditions secondary to the bite. In the vast majority of cases the symptoms are not severe, and are quickly recovered from.

Key to the Asiatic Genera

VIPERINÆ

I No loreal pit

A. Head covered with large symmetrical shields above

AZEMIOPS, p. 480.

B Upper surface of head covered with small scales

α No supranasal sac

Nostril lateral, in a large nasal shield, scales in straight rows

VIPERA, p. 482

Nostril small, in a divided nasal, lateral scales in oblique series, smaller than the dorsal

ECHIS, p. 487

β A supranasal sac opening into the upper part of the nostril

[p. 490.

Scales in straight rows, ventrals rounded

PSEUDOCERASTES,

Lateral scales in oblique series, ventrals with a strong lateral keel

[p. 492

ERISTOCOPHIS,

CROTALINÆ

II A deep pit between the nostril and the eye

[p. 494

A Head with large symmetrical shields

ANCISTRODON,

B Upper surface of head covered with scales

[p. 503

TRIMERESURUS,

Subfamily VIPERINÆ.

Genus AZEMIOPS.

Azemioops Boulenger, 1888, Ann Mus Civ Genova, (2) vi, p. 602 (type *feæ*), and F. B. I. 1890, p. 418, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p. 471, Pope, Rept China 1935, p. 382, Bourret, Serp Indoch 1936, p. 440

Fangs rather small. Head distinct from neck, covered with large symmetrical shields, eye moderate, with vertically elliptic pupil, nostril large, between two nasals, the posterior concave, body cylindrical, elongate, colubriiform, scales in 17 17 15 rows, smooth, ventrals round, subcaudals paired or the anterior ones single.

A single species

358. *Azemioops feæ*.

FEA'S VIPER.

Azemioops feæ Boulenger, l c s p. 603, pl vii (Kakhyen Hills, Burma, Genoa), and F. B. I. and Cat l c s, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p. 382, pl xxii, figs A, B and C, Bourret, Serp Indoch 1936, p. 440, fig head, and Bull Gen Instr Pub Hanoi, Dec 1939, p. 29

Snout squarish, broadly rounded, internasals as long, or

nearly as long, as the prefrontals, frontal shield-shaped, three times as broad as the supraoculars, loreal squarish, 2 preoculars and 1 presubocular, 2 postoculars, 2 large anterior temporals, the lower wedged in between the 4th and 5th labials, 6 supralabials, 3rd, or 3rd and 4th, touching the eye, anterior genials short, twice as broad as the posterior pair, which are separated from one another by small scales. V 180-189; C 42-53, A. 1.

"The hemipenis of the type is bifurcate opposite the fourth to fifth subcaudal plate, but extends to the tenth or eleventh;

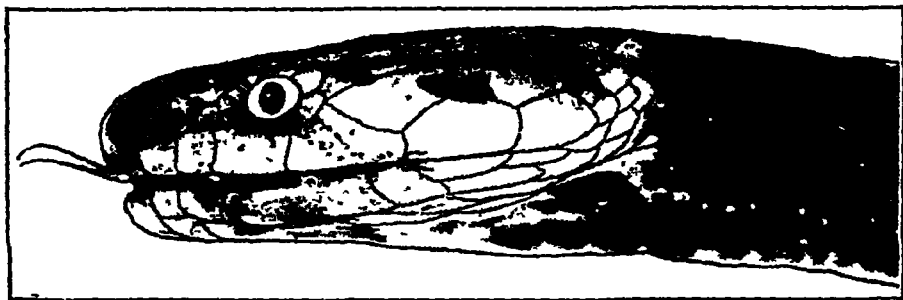
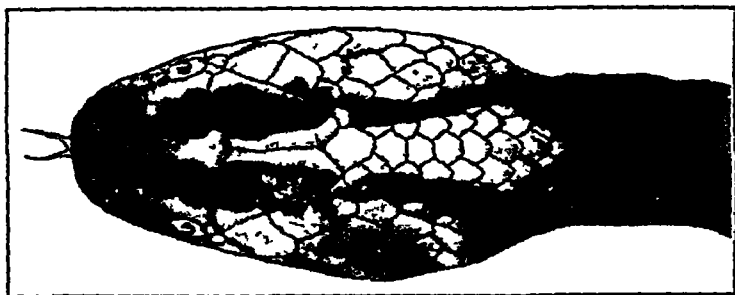


Fig 152 — *Azemiops ferox* Photograph of the specimen from Tongking in the Mus Hist Nat Paris

the sulcus is single in each fork. The organ is longitudinally folded proximal to the bifurcation, but distal to the point of forking, it is first spinose and then calyculate, the spinose area being about as extensive as the calyculate region. The line of demarcation between the spinose and calyculate sections extends straight across the organ but is only moderately distinct. The spines are numerous and very variable in length, while the calyces have scalloped edges and are uniformly prominent throughout. The lips of the sulcus are prominent and bear small spines in the spinose area but are calyculate

in the calyculate region" (Pope) The hemipenis of the specimen in Paris from Tam-dao agrees well with this description except that the spines are large, there are 9 in lateral series, and at the extreme base are 3 enormous ones

Blackish above, each scale finely margined with grey, and with 14 or 15 narrow white (pink in life) bands, entire or interrupted on the vertebral line, or alternating with one another on each side of the body, head and nape yellow, with a pair of dark brown longitudinal stripes of variable width starting from the prefrontals and passing back to meet the dark colour of the dorsum, greyish-white below.

Total length . 770, tail 130 mm (imperfect).

Range Upper Burma, Tong-King (Tam-dao, Ngan-son, Cao-bang), S China, S.E Tibet

A juvenile collected in Tibet and now in the Museum in Paris, has the anterior caudal plates, 2-5, single The head is almost white, the dark pattern being just distinguishable

Genus VIPERA.

Vipera (in part) Laurenti, 1768, Syn Rept p 99 (type red = *aspis*); Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 419, and Cat Sn Brit Mus III, 1896, p 471

Daboia Gray, 1842, Zool Misc p 69 (type *elegans* = *russelli*)

Head distinct from neck, covered with small scales or a small frontal and the parietal shields still persisting, eye with vertical pupil, nostril lateral, in a large nasal shield; a nasorostral shield between the nasal and the rostral, or partly united with the nasal Scales in straight rows, 19-33 round the body, ventrals rounded Tail short

Range Europe; Asia, the Indo-Australian Archipelago as far south as Flores, North and Tropical Africa

Some ten species are recognized, with numerous subspecies. Two are found in the Indian region

Key to the Species

Scales in 27-33 rows, supranasal strongly crescentic, three chains of large spots down the back

russelli, p 482.

Scales in 23-27 rows; supranasal not or scarcely crescentic, no chains of large spots

lebetina, p 486.

359. *Vipera russelli*.

RUSSELL'S VIPER, DABOIA; TIC-POLONGA.

Russell, 1796, Ind Serp I, pl VII, and II, pl XXXII
Coluber russelli Shaw, 1797, Nat Misc VII, pl 291 (based on Russell's figure)—*Daboia russelli*, Fayrer, Thanatoph Ind 1874, pl XI.—*Vipera russelli*, Boulenger, F B. I 1890, p 420, fig, and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1896, III, p 490, Wall J Bombay

- Nat Hist Soc xviii, 1907, p 1, col pl, and xxx, 1925, p 246, and Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 505, figs, and Pois Sn Ind 1928, p 58, fig head, Nicollier, Spol Zeylan, xi, 1921, p 409, Prater, J Bombay N. H S xxx. (1) 1924, p 175, Fraser, ibid xxxix, 1937, p 492, pl viii
- Vipera elegans* Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vi, p 124, pl 73 (based on Russell)
- Coluber trinocularis* Bechstein, 1802, Lincee Nat Amph iv, p 245
- Coluber triscriatus* Herm, 1804, Obs Zool i, p 278
- Dabona pulchella* Gray, 1842, Zool Misc p 69 (Ceylon)
- Vipera russelli siamensis* Smith, 1917, J N H S Siam, ii, p 223, photo (Samkok, about 60 km north of Bangkok, Siam, London), Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 384, pl xxii, H.

Snout obtuse, with distinct canthus, diameter of the eye less than its distance from the mouth in the adult, nostril very large, pierced in the nasal, which is united inferiorly with the naso-rostral, the two shields are separated above by the anterior end of the supranasal which is very narrow and crescentic in form, scales on the top of the head small, imbricate, strongly keeled, 2 or 3 on a line across the tip of the snout, 6 to 9 between the supraoculars, which are very narrow, 2 scales between the nasal and the eye, 10 to 15 small scales round the eye; temporal scales small, the lowermost row largest and smooth, the upper rows strongly keeled, 10-12 supralabials, 4th and 5th largest, 3-4 rows of small scales between them and the eye, posterior genials smaller, or much smaller, than the anterior, separated by small scales

Scales 25 to 29 27 to 33 21 to 23 rows, strongly keeled, except the outer row, which is smooth V ♂ & ♀ 153-180, C ♂ & ♀ 41-64, paired

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, forked opposite the 2nd to 3rd; calyculate in the distal half, spinose in the proximal, the largest spines being nearest to and extending beyond the fork

There are two distinct colour-forms —

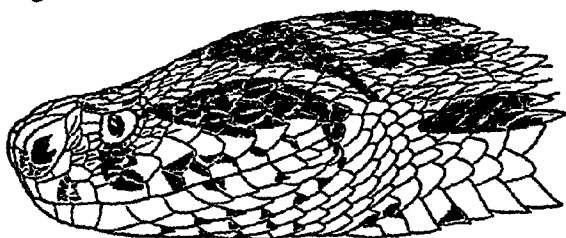
I *Vipera russelli russelli*

Light brown above, with 3 longitudinal series of large rounded or oval spots these are usually brown in the centre, with a black margin and are edged again with white; the broken again may be confluent, and the outer spots may be dorsal and lateral lower margins, the interval between the spots, yellowish-whites may have a series of black punctate spots, head with large symmetrical uniform or with semilunar black two light streaks which unite as dark brown markings and diverge behind to reach the angle of the jaw of the snout and are very light in colour and the dark markings some individuals indistinct

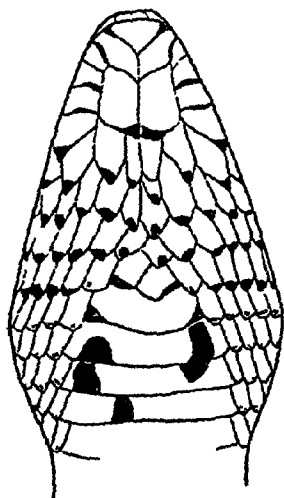
Correspondingly
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II. *Vipera russelli siamensis*

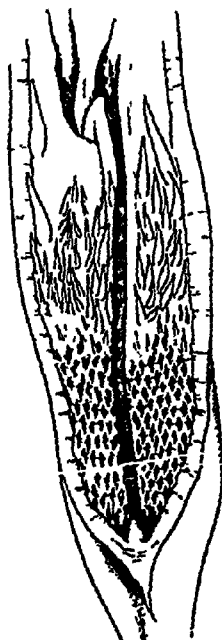
Specimens from southern Burma, Siam, China, and the E Indies have an additional series of small elongate black spots between the dorsal and lateral chains, and small irregular spots along the flanks



A



B



C

Fig 153 — *Vipera russelli siamensis*. (B.M. 1929 10 10 1-2) .
A. & B. Head. C. Hemipenis.

Total length ♂ 1270, tail 210 mm. Individuals up to 5 feet (1600 mm) are not uncommon; Brook-Fox (1894) records one 5 ft 6 in. in length. Wall (1907 and 1921) has written very complete accounts of this well-known Viper, and the following remarks, dealing

with the snake in India and Burma, are extracted from his articles —

“ Russell’s Viper is met with almost anywhere, but prefers open country During the day-time it is quiet, but is, nevertheless, on the alert for any incautious animal that strays within its reach In the evening and during darkness it wanders about Its movements are slow When disturbed it usually maintains its ground, or, if it retires, does so in a leisurely manner It will not strike readily, but when roused does so with great force and determination, sometimes literally hurling itself at its enemy. The hiss is very loud and deep, and once heard is not easily forgotten. Its chief food is small mammals, but lizards, birds and frogs are also eaten Mating takes place in the early part of the year, and the young are mostly born in June and July The gestation period is said to be six months

“ It is a prolific snake, producing from 20 to 63 young at a time The new-born vary in length from $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 11 inches ”

There are several records of eggs having been laid, the young being well advanced in development The event, however, took place in captivity, and the deposition may have been premature

Range The whole of India from Ceylon to the Himalayas, extending to Sind and Baluchistan in the west and Kashmir in the north In the Indo-Chinese region it occurs in the Eastern Himalayas, Burma and Siam It has not been found in French Indo-China, but is recorded from Kwangtung Province in China and from Formosa (*V. r. formosensis*).

Russell’s Viper is not confined to the plains, it occurs plentifully in many upland regions, and has been met with in the Palni Hills, Southern India, at 7,000 feet altitude.

Its distribution is capricious, being abundant in some districts, rare or absent in others. According to Wall it is common in parts of the Punjab, about Bombay, in Travancore, Ceylon, eastern Bengal, and in Burma in the Tharawaddy district and about Rangoon In some parts of Upper Burma, notably Mahlaing, Magive and Myo-thit, it is so abundant in the crops that the natives make special grass shoes as a protection On the other hand it is rare or absent in Mysore, in the United Provinces and in western Bengal In the Eastern Himalayas it is known from Darjeeling district and the Bhutan Hills, but is absent from Assam In Siam it is confined to a small triangle of country bounded roughly by Lopburi and the Korat district in the north, extending south on the left bank of the Chao Phya River to Bangkok It is absent from Peninsular Siam and the Malay Peninsula but has been found in the Indo-Australian Archipelago Within the last few years it has been recorded from Java, and Komodo and Endeh Island near Flores (*V. r. limitis* Mertens, *V. r. sublimitis* Kopstein)

360. *Vipera lebetina*.

LEVANTINE VIPER

- Coluber lebetinus* Linn 1758, Syst Nat p 216 (Cyprus) — *Vipera lebetina*, Boulenger, F. B I 1890, p 421, and Cat Sn Brit Mus III, 1896, p 487; Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1925, p 246, and Pois Sn Ind 1928, p 61. fig head, Corkill, Sn and Sn Bite in Iraq, 1932, p 27, Ingoldby, J Bombay N H S xxix, 1923, p 130, Schwarz, Die europ med Otter, 1936, p 242, col pl xi, pls xxv and xxv
- Vipera obtusa* Dwigubsky, 1832, Essay Nat Hist Russ Emp p 30, Blanford, Zool E Persia, II, 1876, p 428
- Vipera euphratica* Martin, 1838, P. Z S p 82 (Euphrates Valley)
- Vipera peilei* Murray, 1892, Zool Belooch and S Afghan p 72 (Zandra, S Afghan. and Quetta; London)

Differs from *V russelli*, as follows — Head shorter, broader and more depressed; supranasal shield broader, not or scarcely crescentic in shape, its anterior extremity not deeply wedged in between the nasal and naso-rostral, supraoculars sometimes broken up; scales on the top of the head larger, broader, less strongly keeled

Scales in 23 or 25 · 23 to 27 · 19 rows, V ♂ & ♀ 162–179; C. 40–51, paired.

Hemipenis as in *russelli*.

Grey, brownish or buff-coloured above, mottled with darker, or with large, indistinct, dorsal and lateral spots or blotches, lighter below, more or less thickly powdered with grey or brown. In the young the dark dorsal spots are usually quite distinct and quadrangular in shape, they are arranged in 3 series, a vertebral and two lateral; there is a dark vertical stripe from the eye to the lip and another from the back of the eye to the gape

Total length ♂ 1340, tail 185 mm. Wall records a specimen 1670 mm in length.

Range. *Vipera lebetina* (*f. typica*) ranges from N.W India to eastern Europe. The species extends into North Africa, but the exact status of the several forms known is still uncertain. The description given here is drawn up from specimens obtained in India, Persia and Bokhara. It is known within Indian limits from Kashmir, Waziristan and Baluchistan. Ingoldby, writing of this snake in Waziristan, states "According to them (the Mahsuds) it is not rare in the neighbourhood of Kaniguram. They regard it with dread, but rather as dangerous to themselves than to their animals." Atchison ('Zoology of the Afghan Delimitation Commission,' 1889) states, however; 'It causes much mortality among camels, owing to its extremely sluggish habits it will not move out of the way, trusting to its colour to escape detection, hence it is liable to be trampled upon, the result, of course, proving fatal to the trampler'

Genus **ECHIS.**

Echis (in part) Merrem, 1820, Tent Syst Amphib p 149 (type *carinata*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 421, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 504

Toxicoa Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit Mus p 29 (type *arenicola* = *carinata*)

Head very distinct from neck, covered with small imbricate scales; eye with vertical pupil, nostril small, directed upwards and outwards, in a single or divided nasal. Scales keeled, in 27-37 rows, the dorsal in straight longitudinal series, the lateral smaller, oblique, pointing downwards, with serrated keels, ventrals rounded. Tail short, subcaudals single.

Range Africa, north of the Equator, S W Asia, India and Ceylon.

Two species are known, the second, *E. coloratus*, inhabiting Arabia, Palestine and Egypt.

361. *Echis carinatus*.

SAW-SCALED VIPER, PHOORSA.

Russell, 1796, Ind Serp i, pl ii p 2 (Arn.)

Pseudoboa carinata Schneider 1801, Hist Amphib ii p 285 (based on Russell) — *Echis carinata*, Fayer, Thanatoph Ind 1874, pl xi, Murray, Zool. Sind, 1884, p 388, pl —; Boulenger, F. B I 1890, p 422, fig, and *Echis carinatus*, Cat Sn Brit. Mus iii, 1896, p 505, Anderson, Zool Egypt 1898, p 336; Young, J Bombay Nat Hist Soc xvi, 1905, p. 504; Jolly, ibid xxi, 1912, p. 1340, Prater, ibid. xxx, 1924, p 176; Fraser, ibid xxxix, 1937, p 495, pl ix; Wall, ibid xviii, 1908, p 525, col pl and xxx, 1925, p 247, and Sn. Ceylon, 1921, p 531, and Pois Sn Ind 1928, p 52, fig head. Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, p 261, pl 8

Boa horatta Shaw, 1802, Gen. Zool iii, p 359 (based on Russell). *Scythale bizonatus* Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept v, p 339, pl lxx (based on Russell)

Echis zizac Gray, 1825, Ann Philos p 205 (India)

Echis arenicola Boie, 1827, Isis, p 558 (N Africa)

Scythale pyramidum Geoffroy, 1827, Deser. Egypte, Rept p. 152, pl vii

Vipera echis Schlegel, 1837, Phys Serp ii, p. 583, pl xxi.

Echis frenata Dum & Bibr 1854, Erp Gén vii, p 1448, pl lxxxi (subst name for *arenicola* Boie)

Vipera carinata, Jan, 1859, Rev & Mag Zool p 153

Vipera (Echis) superciliosa Jan, l c s p 156

Echis carinata var *nigrocincta* Ingoldby, 1923, J. Bombay N. H. Soc xxx, p 130 (nom nud)

Snout short, rounded when seen from above and in profile; eye large, its diameter greater than its distance from the mouth, nasal more or less completely divided into a large anterior and small posterior portion, the nostril being perforated just in front of the suture, a pair of internasals in contact with one another, usually distinct. Scales on the top of the head small, elongate, imbricate, strongly keeled, 8-12 on a

line between the supraoculars, which are very narrow and often broken up, 10–15 small scales round the eye exclusive of the supraocular, 3–4 scales between the nasal and the eye; temporal scales small, keeled, except the lowermost row, 10–12 supralabials, the fourth usually the largest, 1–2 series of scales between them and the eye, anterior genials variable in size, followed by 2–3 pairs of smaller shields

Scales in 25 to 29 27 to 37 21 to 27 rows, the two outermost rows the largest, the oblique series in 4–5 rows V. 132–185, C 23–39

Specimens from India and Ceylon, excluding the dry area of the North-West, usually have less than 30 scales at mid-body, specimens from the North-West, Persia and S W Asia

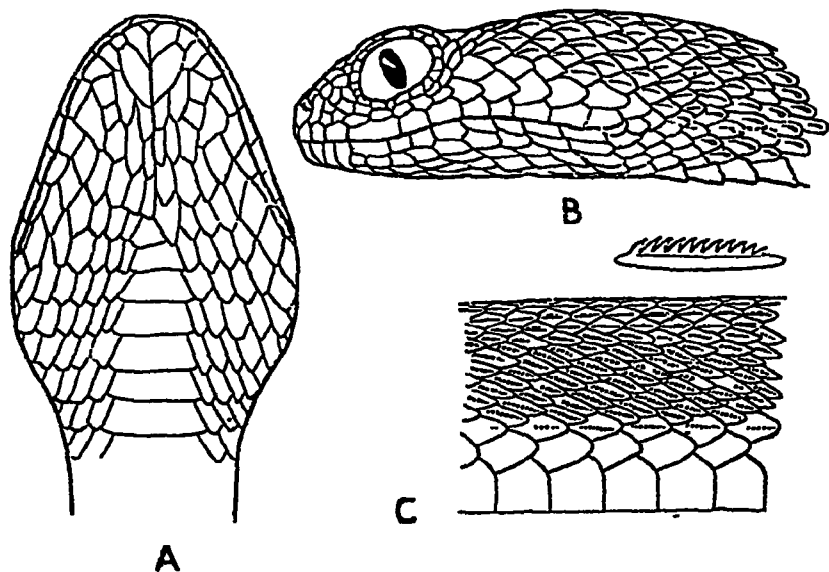


Fig 154 —*Echis carinata*

A. & B Head (B M 1900 5 9 17) C Dorsal scales (After Boulenger)

usually have 30 or more There is great variation in the number of ventral and subcaudal shields, even in individuals from closely connected areas

Hemipenis deeply forked, and spinose throughout The small size of the organ and lack of a specimen in which it is well preserved prevent a better description of it

Pale brown or greyish or sandy above with a vertebral series of pale dark-edged spots which are connected on each side with a light \cap -shaped or Λ -shaped mark enclosing a dark area; these are usually more or less connected with one another and form an undulating light line along the side of the body, a cruciform or Λ -shaped whitish mark on the top of the head

behind the eyes, whitish below, uniform or spotted with brown. The general pattern is as described above, but it varies considerably and is not always distinct.

Total length ♂ & ♀ 600, tail 55 mm. Larger specimens have been recorded, but they are rare. Young (1905) records one 2 ft 6 in in length (760 mm).

Range The whole of India south of the Ganges, except Bengal, its preference for dry country no doubt accounts for its absence on the coast of the Peninsula west of the Western Ghats, south of Karwar. In Ceylon it is found only in the dry districts of the north (Mullaitivu). In the north it extends into Kashmir and thence across south-western Asia into Africa north of the Equator. It is incredibly common in many districts, especially in north-western India. Vidal (1890) records that in the Ratnagiri district alone, during six years, Government rewards were paid on an average for 225,721 snakes per annum. He also states that when the reward was raised from six pies to two annas per head 115,921 were brought in in eight days from December 2nd to December 10th. Although generally an inhabitant of the plains, it has been met with at 6,000 ft altitude, Jolly (1912) records that it is common in the hills of Chagai Tahsil, Baluchistan, at 5,000 feet.

Wall (1908 and 1921) has collected a number of interesting observations about this snake, and the following notes are extracted from his articles.—It is essentially a desert snake, occurring plentifully in semi-desert tracts where the soil, though sandy and poor, supports sparse vegetation so long as open patches intervene, it is not found in dense jungle. In such environment its coloration would no longer be protective, added to which it does not appear to need shade, enjoying the fiercest rays of the sun. Even at the hottest seasons of the year it may be seen lying in the sand exposed to the full force of the sun, or it may be found under stones or in clefts in rock so baked that the hand cannot bear contact with them. Even under such conditions it seems to rely solely on the juices of the animals it eats for the moisture necessary to assuage its thirst. It can move very rapidly when it wishes to escape, and is a most vicious creature. Not only will it bite on the smallest provocation, but it strikes without hesitation and with great malice, the lightning-like rapidity with which it strikes and regains its former attitude must be seen to be appreciated. When excited it has the peculiar habit of rubbing the sides of its body against one another, in doing so forming almost the figure 8 with its head in the centre. The friction thus produced on the body by the serrated keels of the lateral scales gives rise to a hissing or rasping sound. The noise can be produced after death by twisting the body and rubbing the scales upon one another.

A similar arrangement of the scales is found in the genera *Cerastes* and *Dasypeltis*, and their members have acquired the same habit

Records of the breeding habits of this snake are meagre, from three to twelve young are produced at a time, in the Bombay district they are born in April, May and June

Genus **PSEUDOCERASTES.**

HORNED VIPERS

Pseudocerastes Boulenger, 1896, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, p 501
(type *persicus*)

Head very distinct from neck, covered with small scales; eye with vertical pupil, nasal aperture directed outwards and upwards, in a large circular or crescentic shield, the upper part of the aperture leading into the supranasal sac Scales in 21-25 rows, keeled, the keel swollen posteriorly in the adult and not reaching the tip of the scale Ventrals rounded; tail short Supralabials with serrated lower margin and with a groove inside to receive the lower lip

The structure of the lips, to provide complete closure of the mouth, and the valvular prominence within the nasal aperture, are typical desert modifications against the ingress of blown sand They are found also in the next genus

Range From the Sinai Peninsula to Baluchistan and the N W Frontier Provinces

Two species in the Indian Region

Scales in 23-25 rows	.	.	.	.	<i>persicus</i> , p 490
Scales in 21 rows	.	.	.	.	<i>bicornis</i> , p 492

362. *Pseudocerastes persicus*.

Cerastes persicus Dum & Bibi 1854, Eip Gen vii, p 1443, pl 78b, Blanford, Zool E Persia, 1876, p 420 — *Pseudocerastes persicus*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 501, Annandale, J A S Bengal, lxxiii, 1904, p 212, Jolly, J Bombay N H S xxi, 1912, p 1340, Nikolsky, Faune de la Russie, 1916, p 259, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1925, p 248, and Poiss Sn Ind 1928, p 63, Werner, Zool Anz cxxi, 1938, p 268

Head depressed, snout short and broadly rounded, diameter of the eye less than its distance from the mouth, nostril very large, pierced in a large circular or crescentic nasal, bounded above by a supranasal which may be broken up, two scales between the nasal and the rostral, scales on the top of the head small, imbricate, smooth on the snout, keeled behind in the young, tuberculate and more strongly keeled in the adult, an erect horn-like scale above the eye surrounded by small scales, 9-12 scales on a line between the horns, 16-20 scales

round the eye, 3-4 scales on a line between the eye and the nasal, temporal scales small, keeled, 13-14 supralabials, 4 series of scales between them and the eye, 1st pair of infralabials larger than the others; a pair of large anterior genials, the scales posterior to them being much smaller.

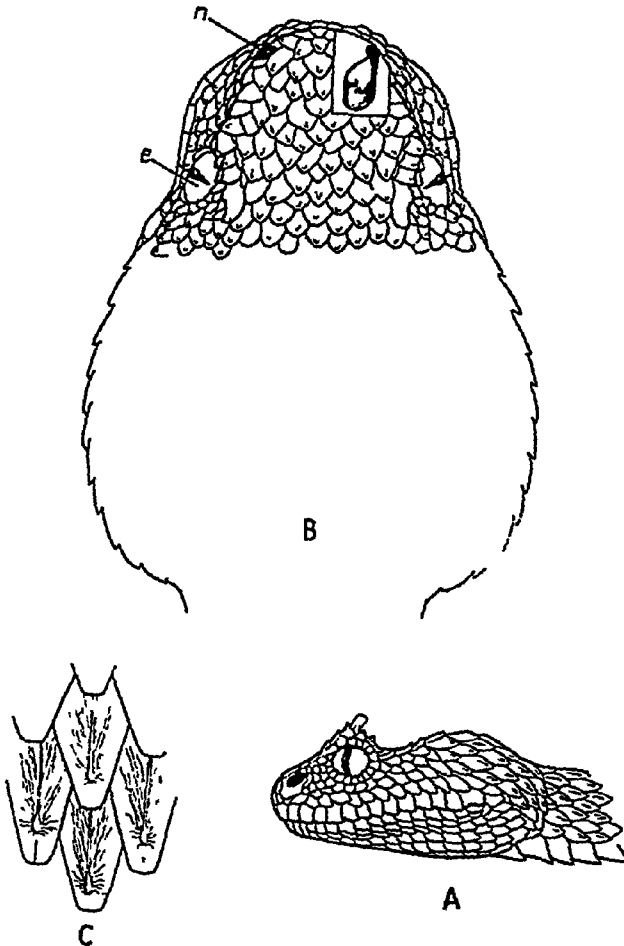


Fig 155—*Pseudocerastes persicus*. A. Head. (B.M. 1919.7.18 32.)
 B Top of snout, $\times 2\frac{1}{2}$. The skin has been removed on the right side to show the supranasal sac C. Four dorsal scales, $\times 4$.
 e, eye; n, nostril

Scales in 23 or 25 23 or 25 : 19 rows, striated and strongly keeled, the outermost scales markedly over-lapping the ventral scales V. 145-158; C. 34-49, paired.

Hemipenis short, extending to the 8th caudal plate, deeply

forked, the distal end is calyculate, the remainder spinose, the largest spines being at the proximal end, sulcus lips also spinose.

Greyish-brown above, with squarish, dark brown, black-edged spots, which alternate with one another on either side of the vertebral line, or are confluent to form cross-bars, sides of the body with rounded, less distinct spots, top of the head pale grey, upper lip and side of the head darker, the two colours meeting in a sharply defined line which extends from the eye to the angle of the mouth, whitish beneath, spotted with brown. In the adult the markings are much less distinct and may be almost entirely absent. An adult from Kacha, Baluchistan, is heavily marked and mottled with black and cream.

Total length 890, tail 110 mm.

Range Persia and Baluchistan

Jolly (1912), records that it is common in Chagai Tahsil, Baluchistan, at 5,000 feet altitude

363. *Pseudocerastes bicornis*.

Pseudocerastes bicornis Wall, *Pois Sn Ind* 1913, p 64 (Khajuri Kach, above Gwalen Kolal in the Gomal Pass, Waziristan, London) and *ibid* 1928, p 64.

The type and only known specimen, now in the British Museum, consists of a head and about the anterior one-fourth of the body. It has 21 scale-rows at the point where the specimen ends and 24 rows just anterior to it. In other respects it agrees with *persicus*. Whether it represents an aberrant individual or a northern form of *persicus* remains to be shown. *P fieldi* Schmidt from Transjordan and Iraq, has 21 or 23 scale-rows at mid-body, and the specimen recorded by Flower from the Sinai Peninsula * is probably that form also.

Genus *ERISTOCOPHIS*.

Eristocophis Alcock & Finn, 1896, *J A S Bengal*, lxxv, p 564 (type *mcmahoni*)

Head very distinct from neck, covered above with small scales, nasal aperture directed outwards, between a large nasal, a supranasal and several small scales, the upper part of the aperture leading into the supranasal sac. Scales in 25 or 27 rows, keeled, the keels short, not reaching to the tip of the scale, the dorsal rows in straight series, the laterals oblique. Ventrals with a strong lateral keel; tail short.

A single species.

* *Ann Mag Nat Hist* (10) vi, 1930, p 224

364. *Eristocophis memahoni*.

McMAHON'S VIPER

Eristocophis memahoni Alcock & Finn, l c s pl xv (desert south of Helmand, Baluchistan, London and Calcutta); McMahon, P Z S 1897, p 295, Wall, J Bomb N. H. Soc xx, 1911, p 1042, and xxx, 1925, p 248, and Poiss Sn. Ind 1928, p 56, fig head, Shaw, J Bombay N H. Soc xxx, 1925, p 485

Head strongly depressed; diameter of the eye less than its distance from the mouth; rostral much broader than high, crescentic and deeply concave, surmounted on either side by a large wing-like scale, nasal shield very large, bounding the nostril below. Scales on the top of the head small, imbricate, very strongly keeled, the keels short and swollen posteriorly; a large scale at the end of the snout on either side surmounting

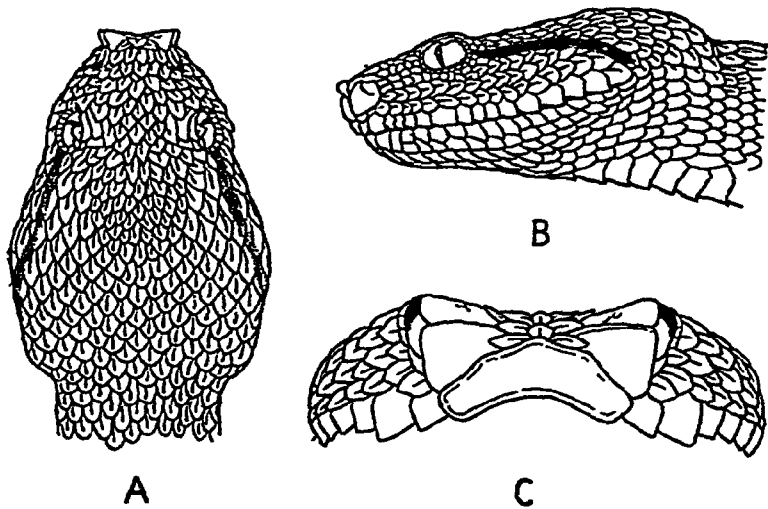


Fig 156 —*Eristocophis memahoni*. A. Dorsal, and B Lateral views of head. C. Front view of snout, $\times 3$.

the wing-like scale above the rostral; supraoculars broken up into small scales, 12-15 scales on a line between the eyes, 17-20 small scales round the eye, temporal scales strongly keeled; 14-15 supralabials, 4-5 series of scales between them and the eye, first pair of infralabials much larger than the others, a pair of large anterior genials, the scales posterior to them being very small. Scales in 23 or 25 : 23 or 27 : 17 rows, the dorsals in straight series, the laterals slightly oblique, strongly keeled, and with the interstitial skin visible between them, so that they form more or less regular transverse series. V. 132-142, with a strong lateral keel. C. 26-32, paired. Tail prehensile.

Hemipenis not known.

Pale sandy-greyish, with regularly arranged small black spots, those along the side of the body being most conspicuous, a dark temporal streak from the eye to the angle of the mouth; whitish below

Total length about 2 feet (600 mm)

Range Only known with certainty from the type-locality

This remarkable viper was found first by Capt McMahon, in the sandy parts of the desert between Nushki and Persia. Whilst lying on the sand it was almost impossible to distinguish, and during the day was fond of burying itself, leaving only the head exposed. Its hiss was very loud and deep, and was heard only at night. It did not attempt to escape, but lay still, hissing until it was killed, or until the intruder passed by. It was very difficult to procure without injuring it, even light blows with a stick would cut through the skin (Abstract from P Z S p 295)

⁺Subfamily CROTALINÆ

Genus **ANCISTRODON.**

PIT VIPERS

- Akistrodon* Beauvois, 1799, Tr Amer Phil Soc iv, p 381 (type *mokasen*), Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 386, pl xxii, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 446 — *Ancistrodon*, Boulenger, F. B I. 1890, p 423, and Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 519
- Scytale* (not of Menschen, 1778) Latreille, 1802, Hist Nat Rept. iii, p 158 (same type)
- Cenchris* Daudin, 1803, Bull Soc Phil Paris, iii, p. 188 (same type)
- Tisiphone* Fitzinger, 1826, Neue Class Rept pp 34, 63 (type *cuprea*)
- Acontias* (not of Cuvier, 1817), Troost, 1836, Ann Lyc Nat Hist N Y. iii, p 190 (type *leucostoma*)
- Toxocophis* Troost, ibid p 190 (same type)
- Hypnale* Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept p 28 (type *Trigonocephalus hypnale* Schleg)
- Halys* (not of Fabricius, 1803) Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit Mus. p 14 (type *Trigonocephalus halys* Boie)
- Leolepis* (not of Cuvier, 1829), Dum & Bibr 1853, Mem Acad. Sci Fr xxiii, p 534 (type *Trigonocephalus rhodostoma*)
- Oalloselasma* Cope, 1859, Proc Acad Nat Sc Phila p 336 (subst for *Leolepis*, preocc)

Eye with vertical pupil, head covered above with symmetrical shields, or the internasals and prefrontals broken up into small scales. A deep pit in the side of the face between the preoculars and the loreal, the latter shield forming the anterior wall of the pit. Body cylindrical, scales smooth or keeled; tail moderate or short; subcaudals paired, or some or all of them single, anal entire

Common characters, unless otherwise stated.—Canthus rostralis sharp, upper preocular reaching the top of the head, 7 or 8 supralabials, 2nd small and separated from the loreal, 3rd and 4th largest and in contact with the elongate subocular which may be divided into two, 1 or 2 postoculars, a pair of large anterior genuals, posterior pair small or ill-defined. The canthal shield is the shield above the loreal between the postnasal and the upper preoculars.

Range Eastern Europe, Asia; Malaysia; North America. Twelve species are known.

Key to the Species

- I. A pair of prefrontals and a pair of internasals, scales in 21 rows
 Scales strongly keeled, posterior labials fused with the temporals *himalayanus*, [p 495
 Scales smooth, labials and temporals not united *rhodostoma*, p 497.
 Scales strongly keeled, labials and temporals not united. *halys*, p 499
 Scales strongly keeled, snout ending in a long pointed appendage *acutus*, p 501.
 II. Upper surface of snout covered with irregular shields or scales, scales in 17 rows
 V 138–157. Hemipenis without spines *hypnale*, p 499
 V 123–135 Hemipenis with spines *nepa*, p 500

365. *Ancistrodon himalayanus*.

HIMALAYAN PIT VIPER.

Halys himalayanus Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 393, pl xxiv, fig A (Garhwal, W Himalayas, London), Stoliczka, J. A. S. Bengal, xxxix, 1870, p 226; Anderson, P. Z. S. 1872, p 401, Fayer, Thanatoph. Ind 1874, pl xvi, p 21; Blanford, Zool 2nd Yark Miss, Rept 1878, p 24—*Ancistrodon himalayanus*, Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p 424, fig, and Cat Sn. Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 526, Gleadow, J. Bombay N. H. Soc 1899, xii, p 577, Fenton, ibid xx, p 1002, Boyd, ibid xx, 1910, p 864, Wall, ibid xii, 1899, p 411, and xx, 1911, p 65, col pl, and xxi, 1911, p 142, and Pois Sn Ind 1928, p 38.

Snout not pointed, not turned up at the end, internasals broader than long, much smaller than the prefrontals, nasal more or less divided into an anterior and a posterior part, canthal shield just reaching the upper surface of the head, 3 large inferior temporals, the scales above being much smaller, 5–7 supralabials, the 1st and 2nd sometimes united with one another, the last two united with the temporals. Scales strongly keeled, in 21 : 21 : 17 rows, V ♂ 147–175, ♀ 160–174; C ♂ 42–52, ♀ 36–48, paired.

Hemipenis extending to the 6th–10th caudal plate forked opposite 3rd–6th; the extreme tip is calyculate, the remainder spinose, the spines being small at the distal end, very large

and few in number at the bifurcation, some of them extend beyond the fork, sulcus lips very prominent

Brown above, with dark brown or black spots or wavy cross-bars, sometimes indistinct, the spots sometimes confluent to form a festoon on each side of the vertebral line, the interspaces between the cross-bars sometimes whitish, a dark temporal stripe from the eye to the angle of the mouth, sometimes extending on to the neck, upper lip light brown with dark spots, brown below, uniform or speckled with black and white

Total length ♂ 600, tail 95, ♀ 600, tail 80 mm

Stoliczka records a specimen 864 mm in length

Range The Western Himalayas from Chitral to Sikkim
Jerdon's specimens (Brit Mus coll), said to have come from

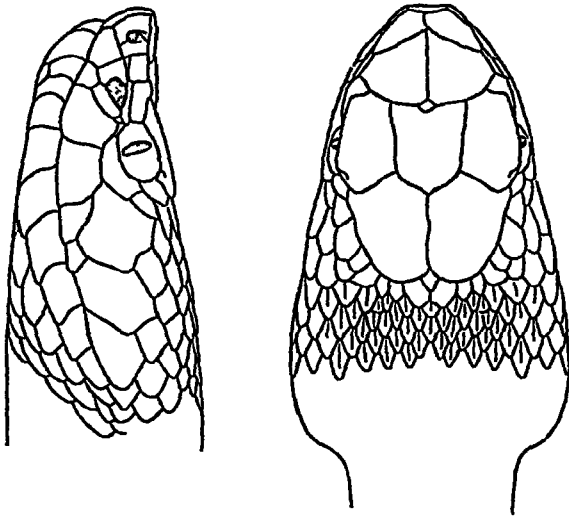


Fig 157 —*Ancistrodon himalayana* (After Boulenger, F B. I 1890)

the Khasi Hills, are no doubt incorrectly labelled as regards locality

Exceedingly common in some parts of its western range According to Wall it favours altitudes between 7,000 and 10,000 feet In Kashmir he found it at 12,000 feet, and a specimen in the Indian Museum was captured at the foot of the Dharmasala Glacier, W. Himalayas, at 16,000 feet elevation In disposition it is quiet and timid, not attempting to bite when handled From 5 to 7 young are produced at a time A good general account of this snake has been given by Wall (1911)

366. *Ancistrodon rhodostoma*.

MALAYAN PIT VIPER

- Trigonocephalus rhodostoma* Boie, 1827, Isis, p 561 (Java), Schlegel Phys Serp ii, 1837, p 547, pl xx figs 1-3, Jan, Icon Gen 1874, Lav 46, pl. vi, fig 2 — *Ancistrodon rhodostoma*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 527, and Rept. Malay Pen 1912, p 213, fig., Smith, J. Bombay N. H. Soc xxiii, 1915, p 787, photo, and J Nat Hist Soc Siam, ii, 1916, p 164, Gyldenstolpe, Kungl Sven Vet-Akad Stockholm, iv, 1916, p 27 — *Aqkistrodon rhodostoma*, Cochran, Proc. U S Nat Mus lxxvii, Art 11, 1930, p 37. Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 452
Ancistrodon annamensis Angel, 1933, Bull Mus Hist Nat Paris, (2) v, p 277, fig (Vinh-hoa, S Annam - Paris) — *Aqkistrodon annamensis*, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 454

Snout pointed, somewhat turned up at the end, internasals longer than broad, much smaller than the prefrontals, posterior nasal elongate, pointed behind, more or less united with the nasal, canthal shield just reaching the upper surface of the head, 2 anterior temporals, the lower larger than the upper. Scales smooth, in 21 : 21, rarely 19 · 17 or 15 rows V ♂ 148-154, ♀ 156-166, C. ♂ 45-52, ♀ 35-46, paired.

Hemipenis extending to the 16th-20th caudal plate, forked opposite the third, spinose in the proximal one-third of its area, the largest spines being those distal to the fork, the remainder of the organ is finely flounced except near the extreme tip, where it becomes calyculate, sulcus lips very prominent

Reddish, pinkish or greyish-brown above, flecked with brown, and with large, subtriangular, dark brown spots edged with black, usually alternating with one another on either side of a dark vertebral line; a broad, dark brown, black-edged stripe, festooned below, from the eye to the angle of the mouth; a light stripe above it extending along the side of the head above the eye to the tip of the snout, this is well marked in the young but may be absent in the adult, dirty whitish below, more or less thickly powdered or spotted with brown. Iris golden, veined with black

Total length ♂ 670 tail 125, ♀ 870, tail 105 mm

- *Variation* 19 scale rows at mid-body occurs in a specimen from Cap St Jacques, a specimen from Cha-am, Peninsular Siam, has the 2nd-5th subcaudals unpaired

Angel's *A. annamensis* differs from the typical form in having four prefrontals in a line, and in the division of the third supralabial on either side into small shields I cannot but regard this as an aberrant example Four specimens obtained by me at Cap St. Jacques, not far south of the type-locality of *annamensis*, are typical *rhodostoma*

Range The whole of Siam except in the north-east, Cambodia; Cochinchina, S. Annam, the Malaysian subregion. Not yet recorded from Tenasserim or Southern Burma, but will no doubt be found there. There is a juvenile in the Natural History Museum, Paris, said to have come from Tong-King.

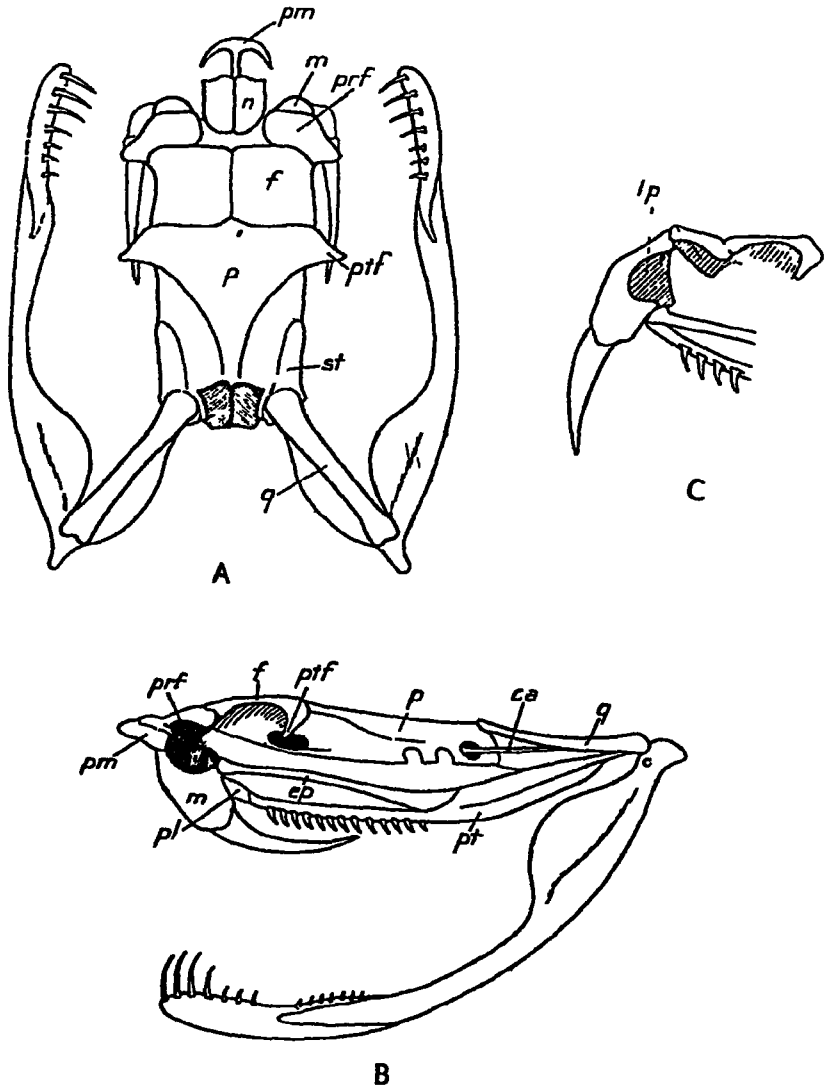


Fig. 158—*Ancistrodon rhodostoma* A Dorsal, and B Lateral view of skull C Maxilla erect, shewing the position of the bones forming the loreal pit

ca, columella auris (or stapes), ep, ectopterygoid (or transpalatine), f, frontal, lp, loreal pit, m, maxilla, n, nasal, p, parietal, pl, palatine, pm, premaxilla, prf, prefrontal, pt, pterygoid, ptf, post-frontal, q, quadrate, st, supratemporal

Ancistrodon rhodostoma is common in many parts of its range, particularly in localities near the sea. It inhabits wooded country, generally at low altitudes. In disposition it is rather fierce, and will bite readily when molested.

Two females kept by me in Bangkok laid 13 and 30 eggs respectively on August 1st and September 1st, and guarded them until the young were born, 42 and 47 days later. Development was already well advanced when the eggs were laid. They measured approximately 32×30 mm, and the young when born were 150–160 mm in length.

367. *Ancistrodon halys*.

Coluber halys Pallas, 1776, *Reise Verschied Prov. Russ Reichs*, III, p. 703 — *Ancistrodon halys*, Boulenger, *Cat Sn Brit Mus* III, 1896, p. 524 — *Agkistrodon halys*, Pope, *Rept China*, 1935, p. 390, pl. xxiv, fig. A; Koba, *Zool Mag Tokyo*, I, 1938, p. 245, pl. —

Koba has recently (1938) recorded this Palearctic viper from the island of Syoryuzan, in the Gulf of Tong-King, west of the Lui-chow Peninsula.

368. *Ancistrodon hypnale*.

HUMP-NOSED VIPER

Russell, 1801, *Ind Serp* II, p. 26, pl. xxii (India).

Cophias hypnale Merrem, 1820, *Syst Amph* p. 155 — *Trigonocephalus hypnale*, Schlegel, *Phys Serp* 1837, p. 550, pl. 20, fig. head (type-locality Ceylon) — *Ancistrodon hypnale* (in part), Boulenger, *F B I* 1890, p. 424, and *Cat Sn Brit Mus* III, 1896, p. 76; Wall, *Spol Zeyl* XI, 1920, p. 403, and *ibid* XII, 1924, p. 270, and *J Bombay N H S* XXX, 1925, p. 248, and *Sn Ceylon*, 1921, p. 549, fig. head, Henry, *Spol Zeyl B*, XII, 1925, p. 257.

Trimeresurus ? ceylonensis Gray, 1842, *Zool Misc* p. 49 (Ceylon). *Trigonocephalus zara* Gray, 1849, *Cat Sn Brit Mus* p. 15 ("Singapore", London).

Hypnale nepa, Günther, 1864, *Rept Brit Ind* p. 394 (in part).

Hypnale affinis Anderson, 1871, *J A S Bengal*, XI, p. 2, p. 20 (Ceylon, Calcutta).

Ancistrodon millardi Wall, 1908, *J Bombay N H Soc* XVIII, p. 792, fig. head, and *ibid*. XXVI, 1920, p. 578.

Snout acutely pointed and turned up at the end, no proper internasals or prefrontals, the top of the snout being covered with more or less irregular scales, the extreme tip sometimes with minute scales, postnasal completely or almost completely fused with the nasal, pointed behind, canthal shield extending well on to the upper surface of the head, lowermost row of temporal shields larger than the upper rows. Scales feebly keeled, in 17 17 17 or 15 rows V ♂ & ♀ 138–157; C. 32–46, paired, or some of them single.

Hemipenis extending to the 15th caudal plate, forked opposite 3rd-4th. The greater part of the organ is closely fliounced except near the bifurcation, where it is almost smooth. Sulcus lips prominent; there are no spines.

Greyish or brownish above, heavily powdered and mottled with brown; a series of large, dark, angular or oblong spots on each side of the mid-line, sometimes alternating with those of the other side, sometimes a series of lateral spots. Greyish or yellowish or brownish below, more or less heavily spotted with darker, top of the head usually dark brown. A dark postocular stripe with a light one above it, a pair of longitudinal dark stripes on the nape may be present, tip of the tail often yellowish or reddish.

Total length ♂ 330, tail 55, ♀ 480, tail 65 mm

Range Ceylon and the Western Ghats as far north as latitude 16°

Viviparous, producing from four to ten young. Terrestrial and arboreal in its habits, ascending low bushes. The following interesting habit of the young has been given by Henry (1925) —

"One day a small skink was put into their cage, and at once I noticed a phenomenon which was frequently observed afterwards. The little vipers were, as usual, coiled up into four compact masses looking like so many stones, and as soon as they caught sight of the skink, their tails, which were of a whitish colour, were protruded from the coils and caused to wriggle about in an extraordinary manner, looking for all the world like so many very active earthworms. As I had just been spraying them with water from a fine pipette I had at first failed to connect this action with the presence of the skink, and put it down to the snake's way of expressing pleasure. However, the *Lygosoma* was eaten during the night, and subsequently I noticed that whenever a small lizard of any kind was put into the cage the tail-wriggling immediately commenced. I soon saw that it was a deliberate act on the part of the snakes to entice the lizard within reach. On several occasions I saw small geckoes actually seize a snake's wriggling tail and instantly receive a fatal wound from the venomous little creature. Later on, as the snakes grew stronger, they would not wait until a lizard seized their tail, but would spring at it as soon as it came within reach."

369. *Ancistrodon nepa*.

CEYLON HUMP-NOSED VIPER

Coluber nepa Laurenti, 1768, Syn Rept p 97 (based on Seba, 1, pl 19, fig 7 ("Madagascar")) — *Hymale nepa*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 394 (in part) — *Ancistrodon nepa*, Smith, J Bombay N. H. Soc xxxix, 1937, p 730

Ancistrodon hypnale, Boulenger, 1890, F B I p 424 (in part)
Ancistrodon millardi (not of Wall, 1908) Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921,
 p 554, fig head, and J Bombay N H. Soc xxx, 1925, p 249

Differs from *hypnale* as follows —Tip of the snout always with a distinct hump or projection, covered with minute scales, the projection occupying the middle of the tip of the snout (in *hypnale* it occupies the whole of the tip); fewer ventrals, 120–135, and subcaudals, 28–30, and in the character of the hemipenis This extends to the 9th–12th caudal plate and is forked opposite the 3rd, the proximal portion is spinose, the largest spines being distal to the bifurcation, the distal end is calyculate, the intervening area flounced, the lips of the sulcus are not spinose.

Size smaller, not exceeding 380 mm in total length.

Range Ceylon Very common about Hakgalla Wall also records it from Kandy, Ambewela and Mudulkele

370. *Ancistrodon acutus*.

Halys acutus Günther, 1888, Ann Mag Nat Hist (6) : p 171, pl xxi, and in Pratt's, Snows of Tibet, 1892, p 242 (Wusueh, Hupeh, London) —*Ancistrodon acutus*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 524 —*Aγκιστροδον ακυτος*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 387, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 447, fig head, Angel & Bourret, Bull Soc Zool Fr lviii, 1933, p 140

Snout produced into a pointed dermal appendage directed forwards, covered above by the internasals, beneath by a separate shield above the rostral Posterior nasal partly united with the nasal, placed behind and above it, canthal shield elongate, pointed behind, not reaching the upper surface of the head, 3 large lower temporals, the scales above them being much smaller, the symmetrical plates of the head are covered with minute granules or tubercles, the scales behind them are very strongly keeled

Scales very strongly keeled, the tips with two tubercles, in 23 21 rarely 23 17 rows, V ♂ 157–165, ♀ 165–171, C. ♂ 53–60, ♀ 52–55 (*vide* Pope), the basal 6–13 undivided, the rest paired.

Hemipenis extending to the 11th–12th caudal plate, forked opposite the 5th–6th, the tip is calyculate, the remainder of the organ nearly to the point of forking is spinose

Brown above, with blackish-brown X-shaped markings which enclose large oval or diamond-shaped areas, or alternating >-shaped ones, head dark brown above, yellow on the sides, the two colours sharply defined by a black streak from the eye to the angle of the mouth, yellowish beneath, spotted with dark brown and with a lateral series of large black blotches

Total length . up to 1500 mm

Range Angel and Bourret (1933) record a specimen from Chapa, Upper Tong-King, it had 174 ventrals. This is the only known record of this large Chinese viper within the area dealt with by this work.

Genus **TRIMERESURUS.**

PIT VIPERS

- Trimeresurus* Lacépède, 1804, Ann Mus Paris, iv, p 209 (type *viridis*), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 425, Stejneger, Herpet Japan, 1907, p 405, and Proc U S Nat Mus lxxii, Art 19, p 1, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 403, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 456, Maslin, Copeia, 1942, p 18
Megæra Wagler, 1830, Syst Amph p 174 (type *Vipera trigonocephala*)
Atropos (not of Oken, 1815) Wagler, 1830, Syst Amph p 175 (type *Trigonocephalus puniceus*)
Tropidolæmus Wagler, 1830, Syst Amph p 175 (type *Gophias wagneri*)
Bothrophis Fitzinger, 1843, Syst Rept p 28 (type *T. viridis*)
Parias Gray, 1849, Cat Sn Brit Mus p 11 (type *flavomaculatus*)
Cryptelytrops Cope, 1859, Proc Acad Nat Sci Philad p 340 (type *Trimeresurus carinatus* Gray)
Thamnocentrus Salvin, 1860, P Z S p 340
Peltepor Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 390 (type *macrolepis*).
Atropophis Peters, 1871, Ann Mus Civ Genova, iii, p 41 (emendation of *Atropos* Wagler)
Lachesis, Boulenger, 1896, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, p 529

The synonymies given above refer to the Asiatic members of the genus only.

Eye with vertical pupil, head very distinct from neck, nostril small, in the nasal, upper surface of head covered with scales or small shields, a deep pit in the side of the face between the preoculars and the loreal. Scales in 17-31 rows; ventrals rounded. Tail moderate or short, subcaudals paired or rarely some or all of them single.

Common characters, unless otherwise stated.

Second supralabial united with the loreal and forming the anterior wall of the loreal pit, 2 or 3 small postoculars, a pair of large anterior genials, usually no proper posterior pair; anal entire.

No morphological characters have yet been found to show that the South American species, called by some writers *Bothrops*, are generically distinct from the Asiatic ones.

Their distribution in the Old World is in India, Indo-China, China, Japan, Malaya and the Indo-Australian Archipelago as far south as Timor, the Philippine Islands and Celebes.

About 22 species are known.

Trimeresurus obscurus Theobald, Cat Rept Mus Asiat Soc. 1896, p 76, no type-locality, type lost, cannot be identified from the description.

The separation of many of the members of this genus from one another, owing to the absence of stable morphological characters, is at times extremely difficult. The valuable work of Mr and Mrs Pope upon the hemipenis of this group has made it possible to separate the *gramineus* of Boulenger into four distinct species, namely *gramineus*, *stejnegeri*, *popeorum* and *albolabris*. The last-named, by reason of its united nasal and first labial, is easily distinguished from the others, and *gramineus* by the slight difference in its coloration and its distribution. To separate *stejnegeri* and *popeorum*, however, there is only the character of the hemipenis, and in Indo-China, where both species are to be found, the females cannot be distinguished from one another.

The members of Section II of the Key are closely related to one another and their exact status is still uncertain. For

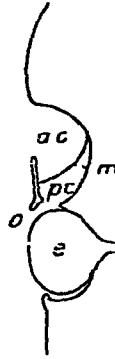


Fig 159—Diagram of horizontal section through left loreal pit of *Trimeresurus gramineus*

ac, anterior chamber, e, eye ball, m, membrane, o, opening of posterior chamber into orbit, pc, posterior chamber

the present I have regarded them as species. In their penial characters they are alike, in their external characters they intergrade with one another, so that it is difficult to name them. *T. erythrurus* intergrades so completely with *purpureomaculatus* that it was regarded by Boulenger and Wall as a colour form (*bicolor*) of that species. A similar difficulty arises with regard to *erythrurus* and *albolabris* and is discussed further under that name (p 525). It is impossible to regard these three forms as races of one species, for *albolabris* and *purpureomaculatus* are found together in the Malayan Region, and in that area are quite distinct from one another. Observations upon the living creatures may help to clear up this problem.

Key to the Species.

I First labial completely separated from the nasal

A 13-19 scales round the body *, 1-6 scales on a line between the supraoculars

Supraoculars entire, 1-3 scales between them, 12-15 scales round the body.

macrolepis, p 505.

Supraoculars divided by a transverse suture, 3-6 scales between them; 17-19 scales round the body

[p 506
trigonocephalus,

B 23-27 (rarely 21 in *monticola*) scales round the body

V 201-212; C 66-78; 8-10 scales between the supraoculars

kaulbacki, p 512

V 200-218, C 76-91; 14-16 scales between the supraoculars

[p 507
mucrosquamatus,

V 127-176, C 36-62, subocular usually broken up into small scales

monticola, p 508

C 19 or 21 (rarely 23 in *jerdoni*) scales round the body, 6 or more scales between the supraoculars

Supraoculars broad, entire; 2 or 3 large scales between them and the internasals, head black, with symmetrical yellow markings

jerdoni, p 510

Supraoculars broad, transversely divided or their margins indented by the adjacent scales, head green or yellow, with black markings

[p 513.
malabaricus,

Supraoculars broken up and erected, forming a horn

cornutus, p 514

Second labial separated from the scale forming the anterior border of the loreal pit, internasals not, or scarcely, differentiated from the adjacent scales

strigatus, p 514.

Supraoculars narrow; dorsal scales smooth or nearly so, head greenish, uniform or spotted with brown, hemipenis spinose.

gramineus, p 515

Supraoculars narrow, dorsal scales keeled, head uniform green, hemipenis spinose.

stegnegeri, p 517.

Supraoculars narrow; dorsal scales keeled, head uniform green, hemipenis without spines

popeorum, p 518.

Supraoculars narrow, dorsal scales strongly keeled; head brownish

[p 519
lanburiensis,

II First labial partly or completely united with the nasal

27-31 scales round the body: 13-16 subimbricate scales between the supraoculars

cantor, p 519

25-27 scales round the body, scales on the top of the head more or less tuberculate; temporals strongly keeled; head olive, spotted with brown, tail spotted with brown.

[*latus*, p 520.
p purpureomacu-

(21) 23-25 scales round the body; scales on the top of the head subimbricate, temporals keeled, head variously coloured, never uniform green

[*andersoni*, p 521
purpureomaculatus

23-25 scales round the body; upper head-scales more or less tuberculate in form, temporals strongly keeled, head uniform green, tail usually spotted with brown.

erythrurus, p 522.

* Counted at the middle

- 21, rarely 19, scales round the body - upper head, scales subimbricate; temporal smooth or feebly keeled; head uniform grey; tail usually not spotted with brown. *albolabris*, p 523
- 21 or 23 scales round the body, temporals smooth; head brown. *labialis*, p. 525

371. *Trimeresurus macrolepis*.

Trimeresurus macrolepis Beddome, 1862, Madras Quart J Med Sci v, p 2, pl 2, fig 6 (Anaimalai Hills, S India, London); Boulenger, F. B I. 1890, p 431; Wall, J Bombay N. H S xxx, 1925, p 249, and Poiss Sn India, 1928, p 43, fig — *Peltopelor macrolepis*, Günther, Rept Brit India, 1864, p. 391, pl xxiii, fig. x — *Lachesis macrolepis*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p. 650 — *Trigonocephalus macrolepis*, Ferguson, J Bombay N H S x, 1895, p 77.

Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye Upper head scales very large, smooth, strongly imbricate, supraoculars

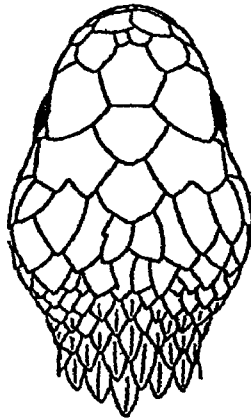


Fig 160 — *Trimeresurus macrolepis*

very large, separated from one another by a single large scale, rarely with a small one on either side of it, internasals large, in contact with one another or separated by a single scale; 7-8 supralabials, the first completely separated from the nasal, the third largest; a single series of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular; 2 rows of large temporal scales, smooth or feebly keeled.

Scales in 17. 12 to 15:9 or 10 rows, strongly imbricate and keeled, the median 10 rows are the largest, and this number is constant, the additional rows being made up by smaller scales which are not constant in number; an even number of scale-rows is frequent V. ♂ 133-140, ♀ 135-143, C ♂ 53-56, ♀ 44-58, paired, tail prehensile.

Hemipenis extending to the 20th–21st caudal plate, forked opposite the 5th, calyculate throughout, the calyces becoming smaller as the proximal part of the organ is reached, sulcus prominent throughout. There are no spines.

Bright green above, paler beneath, the interstitial skin and under surface of the scales blackish, a whitish or yellow line along scale-row 1, a black postocular stripe present or absent, upper lip pale green.

Total length ♂ 475, tail 110, ♀ 580, tail 115 mm.

Range Southern India (Nilgiri, Palni, Shevaroy, Travancore, Anaimalai and Nellampati Hills). Found at altitudes ranging from 2,000 to 7,000 feet. Arboreal and terrestrial.

372 *Trimeresurus trigonocephalus*.

Vipera trigonocephala Sonn & Latr 1801, Hist Rept iii (based on Seba, ii, pl 36, no 2, "I St Eustace")—*Trimeresurus trigonocephalus*, Günther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 390, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 431, Abercromby, Sn Ceylon, 1910, pp 49, 69, and Spol Zeyl 1911, p 207, Wall, Sn Ceylon, 1921, p 560, fig, and J Bombay N H S xxx, 1925, p 249, and Poiss Sn India, 1928, p 50—*Lachesis trigonocephalus*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 559, Pearless, Spol Zeyl 1909, p 54.

Trigonocephalus nigromarginatus Kuhl, 1820, Beitr Zool p 90 (no type-locality given).

Megæra olivacea Gray, 1842, Zool Misc p 49, and Cat Sp Sn, Brit Mus 1849, p 12 (type-loc unknown, London).

Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye. Upper head-scales large, unequal, imbricate, smooth, supraoculars large, divided into an anterior and a posterior part, the former of which is usually the larger, 3–6 scales on a line between them. Internasals very large, subquadrangular, in contact with one another, 9–10 supralabials, the first completely separated from the nasal, the third largest, a single series of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular. Temporal scales small, smooth or obtusely keeled.

Scales in 17 or 19, 17 or 19, 13 or 15 rows, strongly imbricate, smooth or faintly keeled. V ♂ 142–157, ♀ 144–160 (170), C ♂ 60–69, ♀ 53–63, paired, tail prehensile. The last ventral shield is usually notched or divided in two.

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, forked at the junction of the proximal third and distal two-thirds. The extreme tip and area adjacent to the sulcus are calyculate, the remainder spinose, the spines increasing in size as they approach the bifurcation.

Green above, uniform or with black, elongated branching markings, separated from or connected with one another, a black temporal streak, upper surface of head with or without a network of black lines, ventrals yellowish, uniform or green at the base, end of tail usually black.

Total length ♂ 620, tail 110', ♀ 835, tail 130 mm Abercromby records a specimen 4 ft 4 in in length (1300 mm.)

Range The hill districts of Ceylon

Arboreal and generally nocturnal in its habits Wall records details of two pregnant females, one contained 5 young, the other 26 A good account of the habits of this snake is given by him in his 'Snakes of Ceylon'

373. *Trimeresurus mucrosquamatus*.

Trigonocephalus mucrosquamatus Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 32, drawing in Bodleian Library, Oxford, no 18 (Naga Hills, Assam) — *Trimeresurus mucrosquamatus*, Swinhoe, P Z S 1870, p 411, pl xxxi, Boulenger, F. B I 1890, p 428, Wall, J. Bombay, N H S xxx, 1925, p 251, Prater & Sakis, *ibid* xxxiii, 1929, pp 998, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 416; Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 469, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlu, 1940, p 485.

Head rather elongate, snout 2-3 times as long as the diameter of the eye Upper head-scales very small, unequal, obtusely keeled on the posterior part, supraoculars long and narrow, entire, 14-16 scales on a line between them; internasals rather small, separated from one another by 3-4 small scales, two enlarged scales on a line between them and the supraoculars, 9-11 supralabials, the first completely separated from the nasal, the third largest, 2-3 series of small scales between the labials and the elongate subocular; 2-3 rows of enlarged, smooth, temporal scales above the labials, with much smaller strongly keeled scales above them

Scales in 25 25 19 rows, strongly keeled, V 200-218, C 76-91, paired

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, forked opposite the 6th, calyculate distally, spinose proximally, the spinose area being twice as extensive as the calyculate The spines increase in size as the bifurcation is approached, they are largest in the area removed from the sulcus

Greyish- or olive-brown above, with a dorsal series of large brown, dark-edged, irregularly shaped spots and a lateral series of smaller ones, whitish below, heavily powdered with light brown, the light areas appearing as squarish spots. Head brown above, paler below, with or without a dark temporal streak, tail light brown (? pink in life), with a dorsal series of conspicuous black spots

The young are pale greyish, with the dorsal markings as in the adult, upper lip and lower jaw dark grey

Total length ♂ 1122, tail 195, ♀ 1160, tail 205 mm.

Cantor's type came from the Naga Hills, one day's march from Beesa-Lacoon; Mr Kaulback obtained 6 specimens at

Pangnamdim (lat 27° 42', long 97° 54'). Prater has corded it from Pashighat, N E Frontier (26° 43' N, 97° 42'). Bourret records it from Tam-dao and Ngan-son in Tong-Ki. Elsewhere it is known from Szechwan and farther east China.

Oviparous Pope (1935) records three examples with 5, and 13 eggs respectively

374. *Trimeresurus monticola*.

Paras maculata (not of Gray, 1842) Gray, 1853, Ann Mag Nat Hist (2) xii, p 392 (Sikkim)

Trimeresurus monticola Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 388, pl 24 fig B (Nepal, London). Stoliczka, J A S Bengal xl, 1871 p 445. Fayrer, Thanatoph India, 1874, pl xv. Anderson, Anat Zool Res. Yunnan, 1879, p 832, pl lxxvi. Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 426; Miller, J Bombay N H Soc xv, 1904, p 729. Wall, ibid xxx, 1925, pp 251, 821, and Pois Sn India, 1928, p 45. Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 412. Smith, P Z S 1921, p 427, and Rec Ind Mus xxxvii, 1935, p 240, and xlii, 1940, p 485. Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1934, p 457. Smedley, Bull Raffles Mus no 6, 1931, p 123—*Lachesis monticola*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 548. Annandale, Rec Ind Mus viii, 1912, pp 50, 64. Venning & Wall, J Bombay N. H. S xx, 1910, pp 343, 775; Wall, ibid xiii, 1908, p 334, xix, 1909, p 356, xxi, 1911, p 284, and Rec Ind Mus 1907, p 157.

Trimeresurus convictus Stoliczka, 1870, J A S Bengal, xxxix, p 224, pl xii (West Hill, Penang, Calcutta)

Trimeresurus orientalis Schmidt, 1925, Amer Mus Nov. no 175, p 3 (Shao-wu, Fukien, New York)

Trimeresurus tonkinensis Bourret, 1934, Bull Gén Inst Pub Hanoi, March, p 10, and Serp Indochine, 1936, p 460 fig head (Chapa, Tong-King, Paris)

Trimeresurus monticola meridionalis Bourret, 1935, Bull Gén Inst Pub Hanoi, no ix p 13 and Serp Indochine, 1936, p 459, fig head (Chapa, Tong-King; Paris).

Eye small; snout more than twice as long as the diameter of the eye. Upper head-scales unequal, smooth, feebly imbricate, supraoculars usually large and entire, 5-9 scales on a line between them, internasals large, usually separated by 1 or 2 scales, rarely in contact with one another, 7-10 supra-labials, the first completely separated from the nasal, second sometimes separated from the scale forming the anterior border of the loreal pit, third largest, 2-4 series of small scales between the eye and the labials, the subocular being usually broken up into small scales.

Scales in 23 or 25. 23 or 25, rarely 27 or 21: 19 or 21 rows, smooth or more or less distinctly keeled. Body stout.

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, forked at the junction of the proximal third and distal two-thirds; calyculate distally, spinose proximally, the area covered by the spines occupying about twice the area covered by the calyces.

Light or dark brown above, with large, squarish, irregularly placed dark brown spots or markings upon the back, and smaller ones upon the sides. Head dark brown above; usually a light streak from the eye to the angle of the jaw, lips pale yellowish, or spotted with brown, or entirely brown, lower parts whitish, spotted or powdered with brown, sometimes very thickly. A specimen from Adung Long, lat $28^{\circ} 4'$, long $97^{\circ} 43'$, is uniform yellow below.

Total length ♂ 490, tail 80, ♀ 1100, tail 150 mm

Variation A male from Chumporn, Peninsular Siam, has only 4 scales on a line between the supraoculars. There is considerable variation in the number of ventral and subcaudal shields, and this can be correlated with geographical distri-

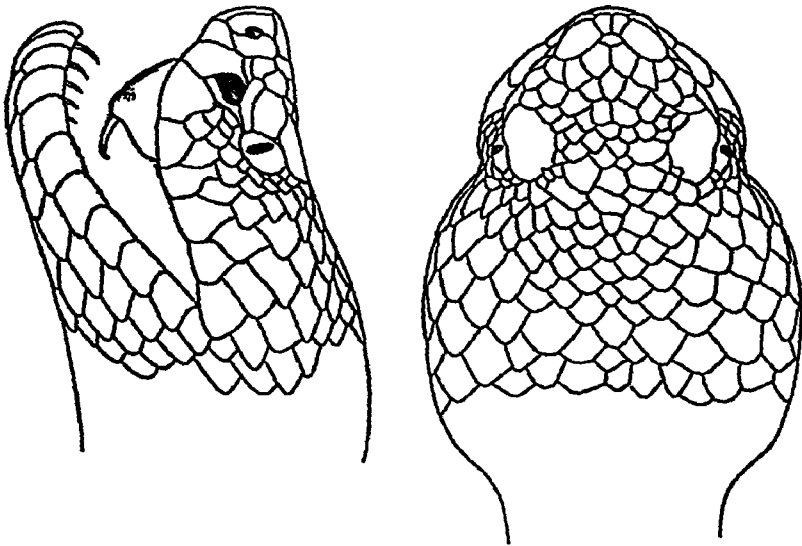


Fig 161 — *Trimeresurus monticola* (After Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890)

bution. The variation is shown below, the number in brackets after the localities indicates the number of specimens examined —

E Himalayas, the whole of Assam and Burma, S E Tibet, Yunnan, Siam (30) V 137–176, C 36–62, paired, or some or all of them single

Annam, Tong-King, S China (10): V. 127–144, C 36–54, paired and single, sometimes all of them single

Malay Peninsula; (5), V 133–137, C. 22–28, paired

Range The Eastern Himalayas as far west as Nepal, the whole of the Indo-Chinese subregion, the Malay Peninsula, Yunnan, S E Tibet, China, Formosa. Common in many parts of its range in northern Indo-China, rare south of lat 20° , where it is known from Mt Muleyit (Tenasserim), Langbian Plateau (S Annam), Chumporn (Peninsular Siam)

Miller (1904), Leigh (1910) and Pope (1935) have all recorded the oviparous habit of this snake. The eggs, 6 to 18 in number, are concealed in a hole or hollow in the ground, or in vegetable debris, and are guarded by the parent until the young emerge. Development of the embryo was already well advanced when the eggs are laid. Pope records eggs measuring $26-40 \times 23-24$ mm in size, they were found in August. Wall states that the anal glands secrete a watery limpid fluid which is stored in considerable quantity, and has a peculiar smell, somewhat resembling resin.

375. *Trimeresurus jerdoni*.

Trimeresurus jerdoni Günther, 1875, P. Z. S. p. 233, pl. xxxiv (Khasi Hills, London), Boulenger, F. B. I. 1890, p. 427, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xxx, 1925, p. 251, and Poiss. Sn. India, 1928, p. 48, Pope, Rept. China, 1935, p. 409, Smith, Rec. Ind. Mus. xxxvii, 1935, p. 240, and xlii, 1940, p. 485, Bourret, Serp. Indochine, 1936, p. 467 — *Lachesis jerdoni*, Boulenger, Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus. iii, 1896, p. 551, Wall, J. Bombay N. H. S. xx, 1910, p. 231, and Venning, *ibid.* pp. 343, 775, Liu, Peking Nat. Hist. Bull. xiv, 1940, p. 245.

Trimeresurus xanthomelas Günther, 1889, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6) iv, p. 221 (Ichang, Hupeh, London).

Lachesis melli Vogt, 1922, Arch. Nat. Berlin, lxxxvii, A, p. 143 (Yunnan, Berlin).

Trimeresurus jerdoni meridionalis Bourret, 1935, Bull. Gén. Inst. Pub. Hanoi, no. ix, p. 14, and Serp. Indochine, 1936, p. 468, fig. head (Chapa, Tongking, Paris).

Snout more than twice as long as the diameter of the eye. Upper head-scales small, unequal, smooth, scarcely imbricate, supraoculars large, entire, 6–9 scales on a line between them, internasals large, separated from one another by 1–2 scales, 1–3 enlarged scales on a line between the internasals and the supraoculars, 7–8 supralabials, the first entirely separated from the nasal, the third largest, a single series of small scales, sometimes none at all, between the labials and the elongate subocular, temporal scales smooth, the series above the labials much larger than the others.

Scales in 21 or 23. 21 (rarely 23*) · 15 or 17 rows, strongly keeled. Burma, Yunnan (17 examples). V ♂ 164–173, ♀ 167–189, C ♂ 50–55 (69), ♀ 44–61. Burma-Tibet border (12 examples). V ♂ 181–188, ♀ 184–193, C ♂ 67–78, ♀ 64–76, paired. Tail not prehensile.

Hemipenis extending to the 14th caudal plate, forked opposite the third, the distal half is calyculate, the proximal spinose, the spines in the area remote from the sulcus being much larger than those adjacent to it.

* In one example from the Mishmī Hills

Greenish-yellow or olive above, with a dorsal series of transverse, rhomboidal, or irregularly shaped reddish-brown spots edged with black, or almost entirely black, and a series of more or less vertical spots along the sides, head black above, with fine yellow lines symmetrically arranged, upper lip yellow, usually with black spots, a black temporal streak, belly yellow, more or less profusely spotted or marked with black, posterior part and tail almost entirely black. The above description of coloration applies to specimens within the area covered by this work.

Total length · ♂ 835, tail 140, ♂ 990, tail 160 mm

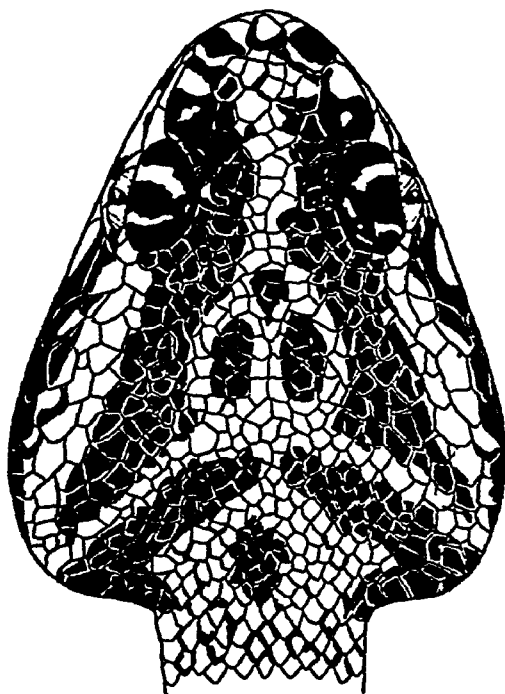


Fig 162—*Trimeresurus jerdoni*, $\times 2$ (B M 89 6 25 13-17)

Range Assam as far west as the Khasi Hills, Burma north of lat 22° , South-East Tibet, Yunnan; Tong-King; China.

Found usually only at high altitudes. Captain Kingdon Ward obtained a specimen in the Di-Chu Valley, S.E. Tibet, at 9,000 feet.

Viviparous, producing from 4 to 8 young at a time. According to Wall they are born in August and September in Upper Burma, the young measuring 7 to 8 inches in length. He also records that *jerdoni* lacks palatine teeth. In no other species of the genus examined by me are they completely absent.

376. *Trimeresurus kaulbacki*.

Trimeresurus kaulbacki Smith, 1940, Rec Ind Mus xli, p 486, pl viii, fig 5 (Pangamdim, north of the Triangle, Upper Burma, London)

Snout 3 times as long as the diameter of the eye, upper head-scales rather small, unequal, smooth, scarcely imbricate, those on the snout larger than those on the crown of the head, supraoculars large, entire, 8-10 scales on a line between them, internasals large, broader than long, in contact with one another, or separated by 1 or 2 scales, 2 enlarged scales on a line between the internasals and supraoculars, 8 supralabials, the 1st entirely separated from the nasal, the 3rd largest, a single series of scales, sometimes none at all, between the labial and the subocular temporal scales smooth, the series above the labials much larger than the others

Scales in 23 or 25 · 25 19 or 17 rows, strongly keeled, except the outer 1 or 2 rows V 201-212, C 66-78, some of the anterior ones may be single

Hemipenis extending to the 14th caudal plate, forked opposite the 10th otherwise as in *jerdoni*

Olive-green above, with a series of dark, diamond-shaped or angular, vertebral spots, which may be united to one another and form a zig-zag band sides with much smaller and less distinct spots, which correspond in position with the vertebral ones, each vertebral spot covers from 12-20 scales, which are green in the centre and black at the edge, lower parts grey, with large, squarish or semi-lunar yellow spots, throat and anterior part of the body mostly whitish, top of the head black, with yellow longitudinal lines, one from the tip of the snout to between the eyes, where it divides, the arms diverging and extending backwards to connect above the angle of the mouth with a line which passes back from the eye, nape with two longitudinal lines, upper lip uniform yellow.

The young are pale greyish (light brown in life) above, and have the dark (reddish-brown in life) dorsal markings edged with white; lower parts black and white, the two colours in almost equal proportions, lips and the whole of the lower jaw white (pink in life), with large black spots symmetrically arranged.

Total length ♂ 1340, tail 225; ♀ 1410, tail 230 mm

Range Only known from the type-locality

Oviparous, laying from 6 to 32 eggs at a time These are laid in holes in the ground and are guarded by the mother, size of the eggs 48-53×26-27 mm, the young when born measure 260-270 mm in length

377. *Trimeresurus malabaricus*.

Trigonocephalus (Cophias) malabaricus Jerdon, 1854, J A S Bengal, xxi, p 523 (Western Ghats), Beddome, Madras Quart J Med Sci v, 1862, p 2 — *Lachesis malabaricus*, Rao, Rec Ind Mus xii, 1917, p 13

Trigonocephalus (Cophias) wardi Jerdon, l c. s p 524 (no type-loc given)

Trimeresurus anamallensis Günther, 1864, Rept Brit Ind p 387, pl xxiv, fig C (Anamallay Hills, London), Fayer, Thanatoph Ind 1874, p xiv, Boulenger, F B I. 1890, p 430; Ferguson, J, Bombay N H S x, 1895, p 76; Wall, ibid xxx, 1925, p 250, and Pois Sn Ind 1928, p 51, fig — *Lachesis anamallensis*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 558, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxvi, 1919, p 579, Rao, Rec Ind Mus xii, 1917, p 12

Lachesis coorgensis Rao, 1917, Rec Ind Mus xii, p 14 (Coorg Town, S India; Calcutta)

Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye. Upper head-scales rather large, unequal, smooth or obtusely keeled, strongly imbricate, supraoculars usually transversely divided into 2 or 3 pieces, their inner margins indented by the adjacent scales, 7-9 scales on a line between them, internasals large, usually in contact with one another; 9-10 supralabials, the first completely separated from the nasal, a single series of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular, temporal scales smooth or obtusely keeled.

Scales in 21 or 23. 21, rarely 19·15 or 17 rows, feebly keeled. V ♂ 143-158, ♀ 136-159, C ♂ 50-63, ♀ 44-54, paired; tail prehensile.

Hemipenis extending to the 12th caudal plate, forked at the junction of the proximal third and distal two-thirds, the extreme tip and area adjacent to the sulcus are calyculate, the remainder spinose, except on the area adjacent to the bifurcation, which is free of spines. Sulcus lips prominent throughout.

Greenish or olive above, with more or less distinct brown or blackish spots, separated from one another or confluent in zig-zag form, usually an irregular series of yellow spots along the flanks, lower parts pale green or yellow, a black temporal streak more or less distinct, tail black and yellow. Young brownish in colour above, brown or grey below.

Total length ♂ 550, tail 100; ♀ 790, tail 130 mm. Wall records a specimen 3½ feet in length (1050 mm).

Range. Common in many of the hills of western and southern India at altitudes varying from 2,000-7,000 feet (Mahableshwar, Goa, N Kanara, Coorg; Nilgiri, Shevaroy, Anaimalai and Palni Hills, Travancore State).

Ferguson, writing about it in Travancore (1895), says. "A common snake of the hills, variable in colour, changing with the seasons, being quite light in the dry season and with faint markings, while in the wet it is dark and the markings are clearly defined." An interesting observation of this nature deserves further investigation.

378. *Trimeresurus strigatus*.

Trimeresurus strigatus Gray, 1842, Zool Misc p 49 (Madras Pres, London), Gunther, Rept Brit Ind 1864, p 389, pl xxiv, fig D, Fayrer, Thanatoph Ind 1874, p 389, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 427, Wall, Pois Sn Ind 1928, p 44, fig head — *Lachesis strigatus*, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 549, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxvi, 1919, p 578

Atropos darwini Dum & Bibr 1854, Erp Gén vii, pp 1518 and 1520 (India, Paris)

Trigonocephalus (Cophias) neelgherriensis Jerdon, 1854, J A S Bengal xxii, p 524 (Nilgiris)

Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye Upper head-scales subequal, smooth, scarcely imbricate, supraoculars narrow, their inner margins indented by the adjacent scales, 8 or 9 on a line between them, internasals not or scarcely distinguishable from the adjacent scales, 8 or 9 supralabials, first separated from the nasal, second separated from the shield forming the anterior wall of the loreal pit, fourth usually the largest, a single row of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular

Scales in 21 21 15 rows, feebly keeled, at least the median rows V ♂ 135-144, ♀ 131-132, C ♂ 35-42, ♀ 32-34, paired, tail prehensile

Variation A specimen from Coonoor in the Madras Museum has the second labial united with the shield forming the anterior wall of the loreal pit

Hemipenis extending to the 10th caudal plate, forked opposite the 4th, the tip and area adjoining the sulcus calyculate, the remainder spinose

Brown above, with large dark brown spots, the dorsal series often confluent into a zig-zag stripe, whitish below, heavily spotted or powdered with brown, a series of spots at the margins of the ventrals and extending on to scale-row 1, more or less distinct, a dark temporal stripe and a more or less distinct \cap -shaped mark on the nape

A pair taken in copula measure — Total length ♂ 375, tail 60, ♀ 410, tail 52 mm

Wall states that it grows to $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet (450 mm)

Range Southern India (Nilgiri, Anaimalai, Shevaroy, Palni and Tinnevely Hills), at between 3,000 and 6,000 feet altitude

379. *Trimeresurus cornutus*.

Trimeresurus cornutus Smith, 1930, Ann Mag Nat Hist (10) vi, p 682, fig head (Fan-si-pan Mts, Tong-King, London), Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 404, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 475, fig

Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye Upper head-scales small, subimbricate, smooth or tuberculate upon the crown, keeled posteriorly, 11 on a line, between the supraoculars, which are broken up into 3-4 scales, these are

strongly erected and together form a horn-like appendage, internasals elongate, slightly raised at their outer margins, separated from one another by 2 scales. Nine supralabials, first completely separated from the nasal, third largest. 2 series of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular.

Scales in $21 \cdot 21$ rows, keeled, V 193–197, C 72–76, paired tail prehensile

Greyish-brown above, with two more or less distinct dorsal series of squarish darker spots, edged with blackish, which usually meet on the vertebral line and form cross-bars, occasionally they alternate, a lateral series of whitish spots. Below

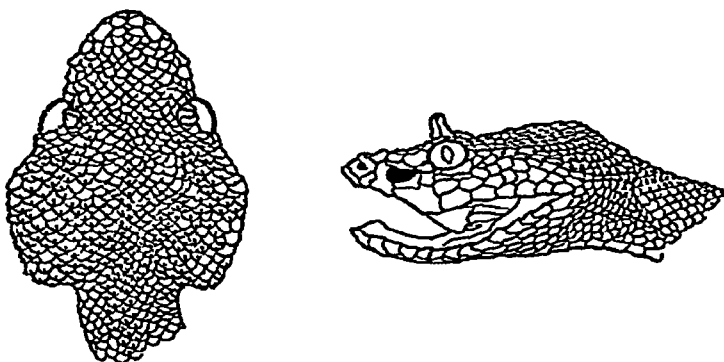


Fig 163 — *Trimeresurus cornutus* (After Smith)

whitish, thickly powdered with brown. Head with small irregular brown spots.

Total length 587, tail 107 mm

Known only from two specimens, both females. The second example, in Paris, is from Tong-King, without exact locality.

380. *Trimeresurus gramineus*.

BAMBOO PIT VIPER

Coluber gramineus Shaw, 1802, Gen Zool iii, p 420, based on Russell's "Bodroo Pam," Ind Serp i, pl ix, p 13, and u, p 24 (type-loc Vizagapatam) — *Lachesis gramineus*, Wall, J Bombay N H S xvi, 1905, p 536, col pl and figs of *stejnegeri*, and xix, 1909, p 758, and xxvi, 1919, p 578, Kinnear, ibid xxi, 1912, p 1339, Dreckmann, ibid xviii, 1908, p 434 — *Trimeresurus gramineus*, Smith, J Bombay N H S. xxxix 1937, p 730, Prater, ibid xxx, 1924, p 176

Vipera viridis Daudin, 1803, Hist Nat Rept vi, p 112 (based on Russell) — *Trimeresurus viridis*, Beddome, Madras Quart J. Med Sci v, 1862, p 1, and J Soc Bib Nat Hist. i, 1940, p 275 (reprint)

Trimeresurus occidentalis Pope & Pope, 1933, Amer Mus Nov. no 620, p 3 (Mudmalley, Wynaad, London)

Trimeresurus and *Lachesis gramineus* (auct in part)

Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye Upper
2 L 2

head-scales small, subequal, subimbricate, smooth, supra-oculars narrow, entire, 8-11 scales on a line between them, internasals $1\frac{1}{2}$ -3 times as large as the adjacent scales, separated from one another by 1 or 2 small scales, 10-12 supralabials, first completely separated from the nasal, third largest, 2 rows of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular, temporal scales small, smooth

Scales in $21 \cdot 21 : 15$ rows, smooth or the median posterior rows feebly keeled, V ♂ 145-175, ♀ 164-177, C ♂ 55-71, ♀ 57-62, paired, tail prehensile

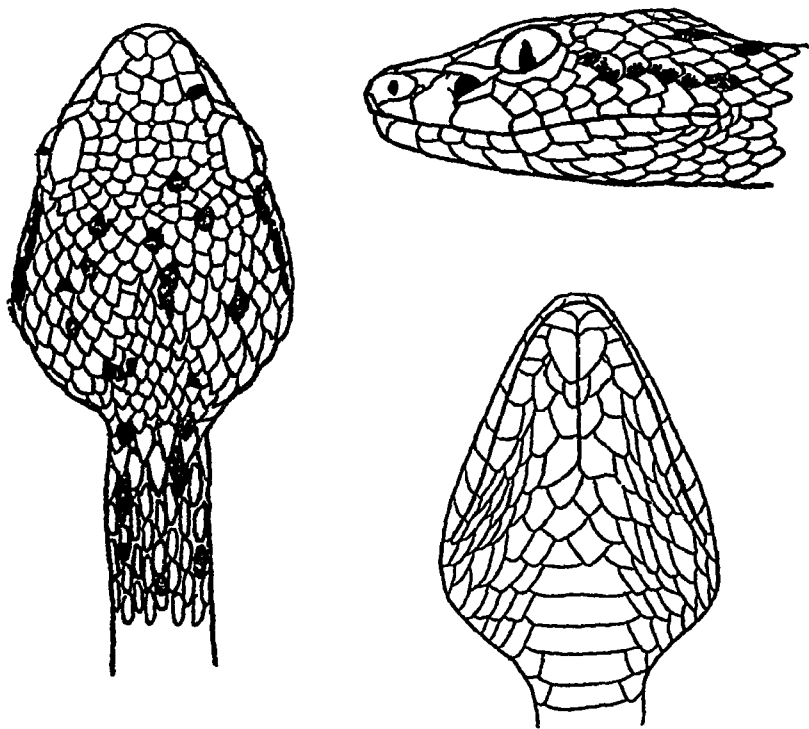


Fig 164 — *Trimeresurus gramineus*. $\times 2$

Hemipenis extending to the 11th-12th caudal plate, forked opposite the third, sulcus bordered on either side by a calyculate area, the rest of the organ being spinose, the spines at the tip are small, the remainder much larger

Green or yellowish-green above, uniform or with occasional small dark brown spots produced by an extension of the colour of the interstitial skin on to the base of the scales, whitish or greenish below. The green of the dorsum may extend on to the outer edges of the ventrals, and the pale colour of the ventrals on to the outer dorsal scales, the resulting pattern

being a broken and uneven line along the flanks, upper lip whitish, a dark temporal streak present or absent

Total length ♂ 630, tail 115, ♀ 800, tail 135 mm

Range Peninsular India south of Lat 22° Prater (1924) states that it is common at Castle Rock, N Kanara district Father Dreckmann (1908), writes that he had one that "gave birth to a healthy family of young ones" whilst he held it in his hand

381 *Trimeresurus stejnegeri*.

Trimeresurus stejnegeri Schmidt, 1925, Amer Mus Nov no 157, p 4 (Shao-wu, Fukien, China, New York,) Pope, l c s 1933, no 620, p 5, and Rept China, 1935, p 418, fig head, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlv, 1940, p 486

Trimeresurus yunnanensis Schmidt, 1927, Amer Mus Nov no 157, p 4 (Teng-yueh, Yunnan, New York) — *Trimeresurus stejnegeri yunnanensis*, Pope, Rept China, 1935, p 423

Trimeresurus and *Lachesis gramineus* (auct in part)

Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye Upper head-scales small, unequal, subimbricate, smooth Supra-oculars narrow, sometimes divided by a transverse suture, 9–12 scales on a line between them, internasals small, elongate, 1½–2 times larger than the adjacent scales, separated from one another by 1–2 scales, 9–10 supralabials, the first completely separated from the nasal, the third largest, a single series of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular: temporal scales small, smooth, rarely feebly keeled

Scales in 21 or 19 21 or 19 15 rows, more or less strongly keeled V 155–169, C 61–68, paired, tail prehensile

Hemipenis short, extending to the 10th caudal plate, forked opposite the 5th The tip and an area adjacent to the sulcus as far as the bifurcation are calyculate, the remainder, to beyond the bifurcation, spinose The proximal spines are largest, sulcus prominent

Green above, pale green or whitish below A light stripe, bordered below with orange or chocolate, along the flank and base of the tail, mainly on scale-row 1, a light postocular stripe, bordered above with orange or chocolate, present or partly or completely absent, upper lip pale green, end of tail usually pinkish Two examples (Haka and Hup Bon) have a series of small white vertebral spots

Total length 750, tail 145 mm

The above description is drawn up from the 10 specimens listed

Variation A large amount of material from China examined by Pope shows a constant scale-count of 21 rows at mid-body and a slightly higher ventral and caudal count One may also conclude, as no male *popeorum* has been found in that region, that that species does not occur there His counts for 12 males

and 13 females are as follows.—V. ♂ 161–171, ♀ 161–171, C ♂ 68–74, ♀ 60–70.

Three specimens, all females (Brit Mus Coll), collected by Mr R. Kaulback in the Nam-ti Valley, Upper Burma, and which I tentatively refer to this species, have the following scale-formula—Sc 17.17 13; V. 143–149, C 57–60

Range The Indo-Chinese region as listed below, Yunnan, China, Formosa Pope records it from Hainan Found in the hilly district

		<i>Scales</i>	<i>Vent.</i>	<i>Caud</i>
Darjeeling . . .	♂	21 : 21 . 15	161	63
Himalayas . . .	♂	21 19 : 15	157	58+
Himalayas . . .	♂	21 19 15	155	64
Shillong . . .	♂	21 21 15	158	64
Shillong . . .	♂	21 . 21 15	161	62
Assam	♂	19 . 19 . 15	158	57+
Mogok, U Burma . .	♂	21 19 15	159	65
Haka, Chin Hills . .	♂	21 21 : 15	165	61
Hup Bon, S E Siam .	♂	21 21 15	161	65
Yunnan Fu . . .	♂	21 19 15	160	68

382. *Trimeresurus popeorum*.

Trimeresurus elegans (not of Gray, 1849) Gray, 1853, Ann Mag Nat Hist (2) xii, p 391 (Sikkim, London)

Trimeresurus gramineus (not of Shaw), Pope & Pope, 1933, Amer Mus Nov no 620, p 3

Trimeresurus and *Lachesis gramineus* (auct in part)

Trimeresurus popeorum Smith, 1937, J Bombay N H S xlix, p 730 *

Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye Upper head-scales small, unequal, subimbricate, smooth Supraoculars narrow, sometimes divided by a transverse suture, 10–13 scales on a line between them, internasals small, elongate, $1\frac{1}{2}$ –3 times larger than the adjacent scales, separated from one another by 1–2 scales; 9–11 supralabials, the first separated from the nasal, third largest, a single series of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular. Temporal scales small, more or less strongly keeled

Scales in 23 or 21 . 21 : 15 rows, more or less strongly keeled V 164–170, C 60–76, paired, tail prehensile.

Hemipenis long and slender, extending to the 20th–25th plate, forked opposite 5th–7th, calyculate throughout, except near the bifurcation, the calyces being largest at the proximal end, sulcus prominent There are no spines.

Colour as in *stejnegeri*

Total length 770, tail 170 mm

The above description is drawn up from the 12 specimens listed.

The species is fairly common in the Malay Peninsula, where

* *Popeorum* as originally spelt is a clerical error.

stejnegeri has not been found I have referred therefore all females from that region to *popeorum*, 6 ♂♂ and 16 ♀♀ have the following scale-variation —V ♂ 161–172, ♀ 157–169; C ♂ 71–79, ♀ 58–74.

Range The Eastern Himalayas, Assam; Burma, Siam; the Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Sumatra

Found in hilly country.

		<i>Scales</i>	<i>Vent</i>	<i>Caud</i>
Darjeeling	♂	21 . 21 . 15	170	60
Darjeeling	♂	21 . 21 . 15	170	66
Darjeeling	♂	21 21 15	166	56+
Darjeeling	♂	21 21 . 15	167	65
Khasi Hills	♂	23 21 15	165	70
Nagasaki, Jalpai dist	♂	21 21 15	170	68
Doi Chang, N Siam	♂	21 . 21 15	166	60
Pa Meang, N Siam	♂	21 21 15	166	70
Pa Meang, N Siam	♂	21 . 21 . 15	165	72
Cambodia or Siam	♂	23 . 21 17	164	73
Kissaraing, Mergui	♂	21 21 15	164	71
Kissaraing, Mergui	♂	21 . 21 . 15	167	76

383. *Trimeresurus kanburiensis*, sp nov.

Trimeresurus puniceus, Smith, 1928, J Nat H S Siam, vii, p 194.

Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye. Upper head-scales small, subequal, feebly imbricate, smooth between the eyes, keeled on the back of the head. Supraoculars rather large, transversely divided on their inner margins, 8 scales on a line between them, internasals twice as large as the adjacent scales, separated by a single small scale, 10 supralabials, the first completely separated from the nasal, third largest, a single series of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular, temporal scales small, obtusely keeled.

Scales strongly keeled, in 19 : 19 : 15 rows V. 159, C. 42, paired, tail prehensile

Colour (formalin specimen) brownish-grey, with a dorsal series of irregular brown spots and smaller ones upon the sides; whitish below

Total length 405, tail 60 mm

Described from a single female specimen obtained in the limestone hills near Kanburi, south-western Siam

384. *Trimeresurus cantori*.

Trigonocephalus cantori Blyth, 1846, J A S Bengal xv, p 377 (Nicobar Is, Calcutta) — *Trimeresurus cantoris*, Stoliczka, J A S Bengal, xxxix, 1870, p 222, pl xi, Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 428, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1925, p 25, and Poiss Sn India, 1928, p 46, fig — *Lachesis cantoris*, Annandale, 1905, J. A S Bengal, p 176, Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 551

Trimeresurus viridis var *cantori*, Blyth, J A S Bengal, xxx, 1860, p 110 (in part, Andaman and Nicobar Is)

Snout two and a half times as long as the diameter of the

eye Upper head-scales small, subequal, smooth or obtusely keeled, scarcely imbricate, supraoculars very narrow, entire, 13-16 small scales on a line between them, internasals large, elongate, usually separated by a single scale, 11-13 supralabials, the first nearly or completely united with the nasal, the third largest, 2 rows of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular, temporal scales small, smooth or obtusely keeled

Scales in 27 or 29 27 to 31 17 to 21 rows, smooth or feebly keeled, V ♂ 171-177, ♀ 172-182, C ♂ 67-76, ♀ 56-74, paired; tail prehensile

Hemipenis as in *purpureomaculatus*

Coloration very variable For convenience three forms are described, but between them every gradation can be found —

1 Olivaceous above, uniform or with brown spots or markings more or less regularly arranged, a white streak starting on the snout and passing below the eye to the angle of the mouth usually present, becoming indistinct with age, a light flank line on scale-row 1, starting near the neck and extending on to the base of the tail, whitish or greenish below, subcaudals thickly covered with brown spots

2 Olivaceous or light brown above, with many of the scales partly or wholly of a whitish or light green colour; the light lateral stripe present or absent, greenish or yellowish below, uniform or with a few brown spots

3 Dark brown all over, many of the scales partly or wholly whitish or yellowish

Total length ♂ 690, tail 135, ♀ 1150, tail 140 mm.

Range The Nicobar Islands, where it appears to be common I have seen a specimen said to have come from the Andamans

385. *Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus*.

The Andaman Island race, *T. p. andersoni*, differs in a number of small morphological characters from the typical form which inhabits the mainland, and the two are best considered separately.

I *Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus purpureomaculatus*.

Trigonocephalus purpurcomaculatus Gray & Hardwicke, 1830, Ill Ind Zool i, pl 81, based on Hardwicke's sketch, no 158 (Singapore), Boulenger, F B I 1890, p 429, and P Z S 1890, p 36, Wall, J Bombay N H S xxx, 1925, p 251, and Poiss Sn India, 1928, p 47 (in part), Sower, S'pore Nat nos 3-4, 1924, p 19, Pope & Pope, Amer Mus Nov no 620, 1933, p 11, Bourret, Serp Indochine, 1936, p 471 (in part) — *Lachesis purpureomaculatus* Boulenger, Cat Sn Brit Mus iii, 1896, p 553 (in part), Wall, J Bombay N H S xviii, 1908, p 784

- Trimeresurus purpureus* Gray, 1842, Zool Misc p 48, and Cat Sp Sn Brit Mus 1849, p 8 (Singapore, London)
Trimeresurus carinatus Gray, 1842, Zool Misc p 48 ("India", London)
Trimeresurus porphyraceus Blyth, 1860, J A S Bengal, xxix, p 111 (Lower Bengal), Theobald, J Linn Soc x, 1868, p 64; Stoliczka, J A S Bengal, xxxix, 1870, p 218, pl xii, fig 2
Trimeresurus acutimentalis Werner, 1926, Sitzb Akad Wiss Wien, cxxxv, 7/8, p 257 ("S India", Vienna not seen by me)

Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye. Upper head-scales small, subequal, tuberculate or granular, supra-oculars very narrow, sometimes broken up, 12–15 scales on a line between them, internasals 2 or 3 times larger than the adjacent scales, usually separated by a single scale, 11–13 supralabials, first partly or completely united with the nasal, third largest, 2–3 rows of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular, temporal scales strongly keeled.

Scales in 25·25 or 27·19 or 21 rows, strongly keeled. V ♂ 160–179, ♀ 168–183, C ♂ 74–76, ♀ 56–63, paired, tail prehensile.

Hemipenis long and slender, extending to the 16th–20th caudal plate, the distal end is calyculate nearly to the point of forking, when it becomes papillose, both calyces and papillæ involve the lips of the sulcus, there are no spines.

Coloration variable, but two fairly distinct forms can be distinguished —

1. Uniform dark purplish-brown above, with or without a whitish line along scale-row 1, whitish, stone-coloured, or brown below.

2. Olivaceous or greyish above, variegated or more or less regularly spotted or marked with brown, a light line along scale-row 1 present or absent, greenish or whitish below, uniform or spotted with brown, head olive, thickly spotted with brown, tail spotted with brown all over.

Both colour forms are to be found in the southern part of the Malay Peninsula and islands, but from Phuket northwards to the Mergui Archipelago and on Prepara Is all the specimens that I have seen belong to Form 2. Not found on the east coast of Peninsular Siam, nor, with certainty, in Burma north of lat 17°.

Total length ♂ 665, tail 125, ♀ 900, tail 140 mm.

II. *Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus andersoni*.

Trimeresurus andersoni Theobald, 1868, Cat Rept Asiat Soc Mus p 75, and Cat Rept Brit Ind 1876, p 224 (Andamans, Calcutta). Stoliczka, J A. S Bengal, xl, 1871, p 443, Fayrer, Thanatoph India, 1874, p 21, pl xv.

Differs from the typical form as follows. —

Upper head-scales subimbricate, smooth, not tuberculate,

supraoculars usually broader, never broken up, 9-12 scales on a line between them, 10-12 supralabials; temporal scales less strongly keeled, sometimes almost smooth

Scales in 23 or 25 23 or 25 (21 in one specimen) 17 or 19 rows, less strongly keeled, V. ♂ 171-182, ♀ 172-183, C. ♂ 66-74, ♀ 53-59, paired (23 specimens examined)

A female from the Andaman Is measures 1100 mm in total length, tail 170 mm

Coloration *T p andersoni* presumably entered the Andaman Is. from Burma, and many of the specimens are identical in coloration with colour-form 2 of *p purpureomaculatus* which is found there Starting from this form the many colour varieties which now exist can be traced

The brown variegations may extend until they almost entirely exclude the olivaceous above, but less entirely below, the snake then being brown above and below, the ventrals and adjacent dorsal scales heavily spotted with whitish The type-specimen belongs to this form

The brown may become intensified until it is almost black, the whitish markings then standing out in vivid contrast

The olivaceous colour may predominate and the brown variegations assume a reddish hue

Range Evidently common on the Andaman Is, but rare on the Nicobars Lord Moyne's expedition recently obtained it on Car Nicobar, the exact provenance of other Nicobar specimens is not known

386. *Trimeresurus erythrurus*.

Trionocephalus erythrurus Cantor, 1839, P Z S p 31 (Ganges Delta, London, col sketch in Bodleian Library, no 17) —

Trimeresurus erythrurus, Pope & Pope, Amer Mus Nov no 620, 1933, p 8

Trimeresurus bicolor Gray, 1853, Ann Mag Nat Hist (2) xi, p 392 (India, London)

Trimeresurus carinatus, Fayrer, 1874, Thanatoph India, col pl 13.

Trimeresurus and *Lachesis purpureomaculatus* (auct in part)

Snout 2-2½ times as long as the diameter of the eye Upper head-scales small, subequal, more or less tuberculate in form; supraoculars narrow, entire, 11-14 scales on a line between them, internasals 2-4 times larger than the adjacent scales, in contact with one another or separated by a single scale, 9-13 supralabials, first partly or completely united with the nasal, third largest, 1-2 rows of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular, temporal scales small, more or less strongly keeled

Scales in 23 or 25 23 or 25 17 or 19 rows, more or less strongly keeled V ♂ 153-174, ♀ 151-180, C ♂ 62-79, ♀ 49-61, usually paired, but sometimes intermixed with single ones, tail prehensile

Hemipenis extending to the 20th–25th caudal plate, forked opposite the 5th–6th, the distal $\frac{3}{4}$ – $\frac{2}{3}$ is finely calyculate, the remainder, to the point of forking, papillose, the sulcus is prominent

Green above; pale green or yellowish below; a light stripe along scale-row 1, starting from the neck and extending on to

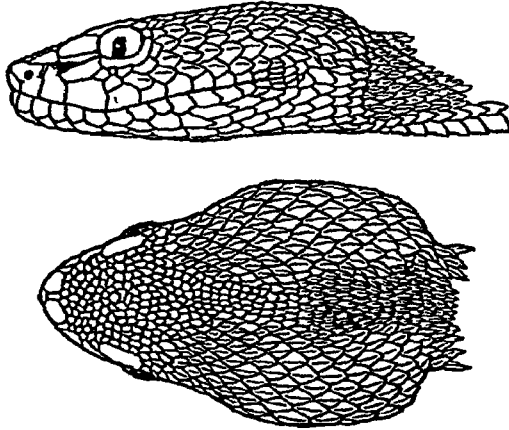


Fig 165 — *Trimeresurus erythrurus*. (B.M 68 4 3 18)

the tail, present in all males, present or absent in females; upper lip whitish or pale green, end of tail usually spotted or mottled with brown

Total length ♂ 575, tail 120, ♀ 1045, tail 165 mm.

Range Bengal and the Himalayas east of long. 88°; Assam, Burma west of long. 98° and south to Moulmein Very common in the Naga Hills, Assam.

Remarks See *albolabris*

387. *Trimeresurus albolabris*.

Trimeresurus albolabris Gray, 1842, Zool Misc p 48 (China, London), and Cat Sn Brit Mus 1849, p 8, Pope & Pope, Amer Mus Nov no 620, 1933, p. 9, Pope, Rept. China, 1935, p 405, fig head, Smith, Rec Ind Mus xlv, 1940, p 485

Trimeresurus and *Lachesis gramineus* (auct in part)

Snout 2–2½ times as long as the diameter of the eye Upper head-scales small, subequal, feebly imbricate, smooth, supraoculars narrow, sometimes rather large, entire, 8–12 scales on a line between them, internasals 2–4 times larger than the adjacent scales, in contact with one another or separated by a single scale; 10–11, rarely 12, supralabials, first more or less completely united with the nasal, third largest, 1–2 rows of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular, temporal scales small, smooth or feebly keeled.

Scales in 21 or 23 . 21 (19) 15 (17) rows, more or less distinctly keeled V ♂ 155-166, ♀ 152-176, C ♂ 60-72, ♀ 49-66 (72), paired, tail prehensile.

Hemipenis as in *erythrurus*

Green above, pale green, blue, yellowish or whitish below, the ventral scales usually having a highly enamelled appearance. A light stripe on scale-row 1 starting from the neck and extending to the base of the tail present in all males, indistinct or absent in females; upper lip white or pale green, a light temporal stripe starting from below the eye usually present in the male; end of tail usually not mottled with brown

Total length: ♂ 600, tail 120 (Darjeeling); ♀ 810, tail 130 mm (Hainan)

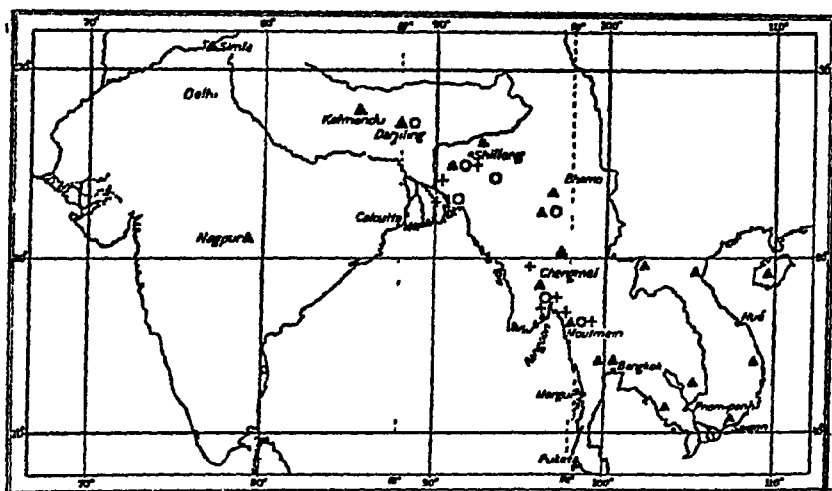


Fig 166—Map showing distribution of *Trimeresurus erythrurus* and *T. albolabris* in India and Indo-China. The figures refer to the number of scale-rows at mid-body

Δ=21=*albolabris*
 ○=23 } =*erythrurus*
 +=25 }

Variation 19 scale-rows at mid-body occurs in one example (Bangkok). The size of the supraoculars is very variable, in two examples from Bangkok the distance between these scales is only twice their breadth and the small scales on a line between them are reduced to 6 or 7 in number. Pope (1935) states that occasionally the nasal and first labial may be completely separated. I have not seen this condition (45 specimens examined). Three males and three females from Car Nicobar Is., collected by Lord Moyne's expedition, lack the light flank stripe but have an unusually distinct one along the side of the tail, particularly the males; the caudal plates are grey.

This description is drawn up from specimens found in the area covered by this work

Range Northern India (Simla and Kulu in the Punjab), C P (Nagpur), Nepal (Katmandu), the whole of the Indo-Chinese subregion from the eastern Himalayas to southern China, Formosa and Hong Kong in the north, Hainan, Siam and Burma north of lat 13°, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, absent from Siam south of lat 13° and the Malay Peninsula, but occurring again in Sumatra, Java and the Dutch East Indies as far south as Timor.

T. albolabris is an inhabitant mainly of the plains, preferring more or less open country and gardens in the vicinity of human habitations to the hill districts

Remarks. Pope regards *albolabris* and *erythrurus* as distinct species, and for the present I have followed him. The characters which distinguish the two are set forth in the Key (p 504), and when the combinations given there are met with the species is easily recognized. But in the area occupied by *erythrurus*, long 88° to 98° E, where typical *albolabris* is also found, there are specimens that intergrade so completely with *albolabris* that it is impossible to name them. The accompanying map shows the distribution of the two forms. Whether we are dealing with two closely allied species, the converging forms of which cannot yet be recognized, or one species, which in one area only is undergoing change, remains to be shewn

388. *Trimeresurus labialis*.

Bothrophis labialis Fitzinger, 1861, Sitzb Akad Wiss Wien, xli, p 411 (nom nud) — *Trimeresurus labialis*, Steindachner, Reise Nov Rept 1867, p 86, pl iii, figs 1-2 (Nicobars, Vienna), Theobald, Cat Rept Brit Ind 1876, p 221, Werner, Sitzb Akad Wiss Wien, cxxxv, 1, 1926, p 253

Trimeresurus mutabilis Stoliczka, 1870, J. A S Bengal xxxix, p 219, pl xii (Nicobars, London & Calcutta), Theobald, 1876, Cat Rept Brit Ind p 223, Werner, l c s p 251

Trimeresurus and *Lachesis gramineus* (auct in part)

Snout twice as long as the diameter of the eye. Upper head-scales small, subequal, feebly imbricate, smooth, supra-oculars narrow, entire, 8-11 scales on a line between them; internasals 2-4 times as large as the adjacent scales, in contact with one another or separated by a single scale, 10-11 supra-labials, the first usually completely united with the nasal, third largest, a single row of scales between the labials and the elongate subocular, temporal scales small, smooth

Scales smooth, in 21 or 23 : 21 or 23 · 15 or 17 rows; V. ♂ 158-170, ♀ 154-174, C ♂ 60-65, ♀ 46-57, usually all paired; tail prehensile

Hemipenis as in *purpureomaculatus*.

Light or dark brown above and below, the dorsum uniform or with small dark brown spots transversely arranged, a light streak starting from the rostral and continued along the side of the head, beneath the eye, to the neck, present or partly or completely absent

No 19491 is uniform brown in colour, with occasional scattered small light spots above and below.

No 3087 has the back marked with a series of large, more or less quadrangular, dark brown spots and a similarly coloured stripe along the flank

Variation The second supralabial is separated from the scale forming the anterior border of the loreal pit on both sides in specimen no 13515, on one side in specimen no 3086

No 3088, collected by Stoliczka, and said to have come from the Andamans, has the caudal plates, 47 in number, single and double, in the following order $\frac{1}{1} \ 5 \ \frac{13}{13} \ 4 \ \frac{17}{17} \ 1 \ \frac{6}{6}$.

One of the types in Vienna has the back marked with a series of light transverse bars which are confluent or alternate with one another on the mid-line

Total length ♂ 420, tail 80, ♀ 440, tail 68 mm

Range Known with certainty only from the Nicobars

ADDENDUM.

Page 92. Add the Species

389. *Rhinophis dorsimaculatus*.

Rhinophis dorsimaculatus Deraniyagala, 1941, J Bombay N H S xlv, pp 800-802, text-fig and pl (Marichchukate, N W Prov, Ceylon, Colombo) Not seen by me

Rostral strongly ridged above, separating the prefrontals for more than half their length, the portion visible above half the length of the shielded part of the head, frontal subtriangular, much shorter than the parietals, eye one-fourth the length of the ocular shield

Scales in 17 rows, V 238, scarcely broader than the adjacent shields, C 6 Caudal disc convex, about three-quarters the length of the shielded part of the head, covered with numerous small tubercles

Dorsally a broad orange vertebral stripe occupying 5 or 6 rows, the three median ones with black centres for about five head-lengths, after which it breaks up into a series of about 40 black blotches, each larger than the head, remaining body-scales black with yellow margins, except scale-rows 6 or 7, which are uniformly yellow Head and caudal shield brown suffused with orange

Total length 350, diameter 8 mm

Known only from the two type-specimens The locality in which they were found is unusually dry and arid Closely related to *R punctatus*

NOTE ON THE HARDWICKE COLLECTION OF SKETCHES

The Hardwicke collection of water-colour sketches of snakes in the British Museum (Natural History) is bound in two volumes, most of them are by native artists. There are 263 full-length sketches and a large number of the heads and tails of the specimens, seen from different aspects, in addition. A few of the drawings are unfinished. Many of them have notes on the margin giving the locality of the specimen, the native name, the ventral and caudal count, etc., etc. The majority of the sketches are of Indian species, others are Malayan, a few are duplicates of the Reeves collection made in Southern China*. Some, although well drawn, I have been unable to identify. Twelve of the sketches have been reproduced in the 'Illustrations of Indian Zoology,' and the actual specimens from which they were drawn are in the British Museum collection. Most of these are still in an excellent state of preservation. There is no text to the 'Illustrations,' the letterpress, unfortunately, never having been published.

The following vernacular names used by Russell or Hardwicke have given origin to the scientific — "Passerika" to *Passerita* (= *Ahaetulla*), "Jara Potoo" to *Lycodon jara*, "Condanarouse" to *Psammophis condanarus*, "Valakadyen" to *Enhydryna valakadyen* (= *E. schistosa*), "Gokool" to *Borga gokool*. *Maticora* is from the Malay "Matı ekor" = dead tail, as shown by a note in pencil on the margin of the sketch, no 122, in vol. II of Hardwicke's plates.

The accompanying list follows the nomenclature given in this volume.

VOL. I.

- 116, 117 *Typhlops braminus*, bad
- 118 *Typhlops lineatus*, good Singapore
- 119, 120. *Typhlops diardi muelleri*, good Singapore Type of *T. bicolor*.
Specimen in B M
- 121 *Cylindrophis rufus*, good
- 122, 123 *Python reticulatus*, good Singapore
- 124, 125 *Python reticulatus*, good Penang
- 126, 127, 128, 129 *Python molurus*, good.
- 130 *Eryx conicus*, good
- 131 *Eryx conicus*, good Cawnpore
- 132 *Eryx johni*, good

* Reeves, J. K. His collection contains, amongst other reptiles and amphibians, 20 water-colour sketches of snakes from Southern China. (Unpublished, bound in one volume and kept in the library of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.))

- 133 *Python molurus*, good Reeves, Nos 16 and 17.
 134. *Eryx johni* (ad and juv), good Cawnpore.
 135, 136 ?
 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142 *Pelamis platurus*, fair
 143 *Pelamis platurus*, fair Dorsal and ventral view (The two upper
 figures only of Hardwicke's plate 143 are this species)
 144, 145 *Hydrophis cyanocinctus*, good
 146, 147 *Hydrophis nigrocinctus*, good
 148 *Hydrophis ? fasciatus*, good
 149 *Microcephalophis gracilis*, good
 150 *Hydrophis ornatus*, fair
 151 *Hydrophis nigrocinctus*, good
 152 *Hydrophis ornatus*, good Bay of Bengal.
 153 *Enhydrina schistosa*, good
 154 *Hydrophis cyanocinctus*, fair Reeves, No. 11.
 155 ?
 156, 157. *Trimeresurus* sp ?, bad Singapore
 158 *Trimeresurus purpureo-maculatus*, fair Singapore Reproduced
 in Hardwicke and Gray's Ill Ind. Zool. i, pl. 81 as
Trigonocephalus purpureo-maculatus Type
 159, 160. *Vipera russelli*, bad Jessore
 161, 162, 163 *Vipera russelli*, fair
 164. *Trimeresurus*, sp ?, fair Reeves, No. 8
 165 *Trimeresurus*, sp ?, fair Penang
 166 *Trimeresurus sumatranus*, fair Singapore
 167 ?
 168 *Naja naja*, fair
 169, 170. *Naja naja*, good Sumatra Reproduced in Hardwicke and
 Gray's Ill Ind Zool ii, pl 77 as *Naja tripudians*.
 171 *Naja naja*, good Singapore
 172 *Naja naja*, fair
 173, 174 *Naja naja*, good
 175 *Naja naja*, fair Dum Dum
 176, 177 *Naja naja*, fair
 178 *Naja hannah*, fair. Sandarbans
 179 *Naja hannah*, good
 180 *Naja naja*, bad
 181, 182 *Bungarus fasciatus*, good, but colour bad.
 183 *Bungarus fasciatus*, fair
 184. *Bungarus fasciatus*, good, but colour bad
 185 *Bungarus fasciatus*, fair Reeves, No. 10
 186, 187 *Bungarus fasciatus*, good
 188, 189 *Maticora bivirgata*, good Penang
 190 *Bungarus* sp ?, bad Dorsal and ventral view.
 191 *Maticora bivirgata*, fair. Penang
 192 *Maticora intestinalis*, fair. Singapore
 193 ?
 194 *Calamaria ? vermiformis*, fair Dorsal and ventral view.
 195 Sea Snake
 196 ?
 197 *Laticauda laticaudata*, fair

VOL II

- 1 *Oligodon bitorquatus*, good Dorsal and ventral view
 2 ?
 3, 4 *Oligodon arnensis*, fair
 5 *Sibynophis sagittarius*, good
 6, 7, 8. *Lycodon jara*, fair.
 9 *Ahaetulla ahaetulla*, good Singapore. Reproduced in Hardwicke
 and Gray's Ill. Ind Zool ' ii, pl 80 (2), as *Ahaetulla bellii*

- 10 *Ahæstulla caudolineata*, good Singapore
 11 *Ahæstulla ? ahæstulla*, good Dorsal and ventral view Singapore.
 Reproduced in Hardwicke and Gray's Ill Ind Zool ii,
 pl 84 (1) as *Dendrophis lateralis*
 12 *Ahæstulla caudolineata*, good Singapore
 13, 14 ?
 15, 16 *Ahæstulla caudolineata*, good Sumatra
 17, 18 *Ahæstulla tristis*, good
 19, 20 *Ahæstulla ahæstulla*, good Sumatra
 21 *Chrysopelea ornata* (Indian form), good
 22 *Chrysopelea ornata* (Indian form), fair Cawnpore
 23 *Chrysopelea ornata* (Indian form), good
 24, 25, 26, 27 *Chrysopelea ornata* (Indian form), fair.
 28, 29, 30 *Dryophis nasutus*, good
 31 *Boiga gokool*, good
 32 *Boiga gokool*, good Reproduced in Hardwicke and Gray's Ill.
 Ind Zool ii, pl 83 (1) as *Dipsas gokool* Type
 33, 34 *Bungarus cæruleus*, fair
 35 *Macropisthodon flaviceps*, good Type of *leucomelas* Specimen in
 B M
 36 *Boiga dendrophila*, good
 37, 38 *Boiga multumaculata*, fair Java
 39, 40, 41, 42. *Bungarus cæruleus*, good
 43 *Boiga dendrophila*, good Singapore
 44, 45 *Natrix vittata*, good
 46 ?
 47, 48 *Ptyas korros*, fair Penang
 49 *Chrysopelea ornata* (Indo-Chinese form), good
 50 *Chrysopelea paradisi*, fair
 51 ?
 52 *Oligodon signatus*, good Dorsal and ventral view Singapore.
 Type Specimen in B M
 53, 54 *Lycodon aulicus*, fair
 55 *Coluber fasciolatus*, fair Dum Dum
 56, 57, 58, 59, 60 *Lycodon aulicus*, good
 61 *Coluber fasciolatus*, good Cawnpore
 62 *Coluber fasciolatus*, fair
 63 *Coluber fasciolatus*, good Dum Dum
 64 *Natrix stolata*, fair Cawnpore
 65 *Natrix stolata*, good
 66 *Natrix* sp ?
 67 *Natrix stolata*, bad Reeves, No 5
 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73 *Natrix stolata*, good
 74 *Natrix stolata*, fair Dum Dum
 75 *Psammophis condanarus*, bad Futtigarh.
 76, 77 *Elaphe flavolineata*, fair Singapore
 78 *Natrix* sp ?, good Sumatra
 79 *Elaphe flavolineata*, good Sumatra
 80. *Elaphe flavolineata*, good Dorsal and ventral view Penang.
 81 *Elaphe radiata*, fair Dorsal and ventral view. Penang
 82 *Elaphe radiata*, fair Reeves, No 18
 83, 84 *Elaphe radiata*, good
 85. *Natrix piscator*, fair
 86 *Natrix piscator*, good
 87 *Natrix piscator*, bad
 88 ?
 89, 90 *Natrix piscator*, bad
 91 *Natrix piscator*, fair
 92 *Natrix piscator*, bad Bengal
 93, 94 *Natrix piscator*, good.

- 95 *Sibynophis geminatus*, good Dorsal and ventral views Reproduced in Hardwicke and Gray's Ill Ind Zool ii, pl 83 (2) as *Lycodon melanocephalus* Type
- 96 *Sibynophis geminatus*, fair Reproduced in Hardwicke and Gray's Ill Ind Zool ii, pl 85 (2) as *Lycodon catenatus* Type
- 97 *Sibynophis geminatus*, good
- 98 *Coluber ventromaculatus* good Reproduced in Hardwicke and Gray's Ill Ind Zool ii, pl 80 (1) Type
- 99 *Coluber ventromaculatus*, good
- 100 *Coluber ventromaculatus*, fair
- 101, 102 *Natrix piscator*, fair Cawnpore
- 103 *Natrix piscator*, good
- 104, 105 *Flaphe orycephala* good Singapore
- 106 *Cerberus rhylichops*, fair
- 107, 108 *Ptyas mucosus* fair
- 109 ?
- 110, 111 *Ptyas mucosus*, bad Cawnpore
- 112 *Ptyas mucosus*, good Cawnpore
- 113 *Ptyas mucosus*, bad Reeves, No 9
- 114 *Ptyas mucosus*, bad Reeves, No 23
- 115, 116 *Ptyas mucosus*, good
- 117 *Natrix piscator*, fair
- 118, 119 *Natrix stolata*, good
- 120 *Callophis gracilis*, fair Dorsal, lateral and ventral views Dorsal view reproduced in Hardwicke and Gray's Ill Ind Zool ii, pl 86 (1) as *Callophis gracilis* Type
- 121 ?
- 122 *Masticora intestinalis* var *lineatus*, good Dorsal and ventral view Dorsal view reproduced in Hardwicke and Gray's Ill Ind Zool ii, pl 86 (2) as *Masticora lineata* Type
- 123 *Oligodon dorsalis*, good Dorsal, lateral and ventral views Chittagong Lateral view reproduced in Hardwicke and Gray's Ill Ind Zool ii, pl 85 (1) as *Elaps dorsalis* Type
- 124 *Calamaria albiventer*, good Dorsal and ventral view Penang Dorsal view reproduced in Hardwicke and Gray's Ill Ind Zool ii, pl 86 (3) as *Changulia albiventer* Type
- 125 *Lycodon aulicus*, fair Cawnpore
- 126 *Enhydrys sieboldi*, fair Dorsal and ventral view
- 127 Specimens of two-headed snakes
- 128 *Enhydrys sieboldi*, fair
- 129, 130 *Cerberus rhynchops*, good Dum Dum
- 131 *Cerberus rhynchops*, bad Dorsal and ventral
- 132, 133 *Cerberus rhynchops*, good.
- 134, 135 *Enhydrys plumbea*, good.
- 136, 137 *Homalopsis buccata*, good Dorsal and ventral views Penang
- 138, 139, 140, 141 *Enhydrys plumbea*, good
- 142, 143, 144, 145 *Atretium schistosum*, good
- 146, 147 *Enhydrys enhydrys*, good.
- 148, 149, 150 *Atretium schistosum*, good
151. *Enhydrys enhydrys*, fair Dum Dum
- 152, 153, 154 *Atretium schistosum*, good
- 155 ? *Enhydrys chinensis*, fair Reeves, No 6

B H Hodgson's 'Sketches of Indian Mammals,' contains also one tortoise, seven snakes, and two amphibians, nos 221-224 In the Library of the British Museum (Natural History)

NOTE ON RUSSELL'S 'INDIAN SERPENTS'

Russell's 'Indian Serpents,'* in two volumes, consists of 86 hand-painted plates, together with some descriptive text. Vernacular names are given to each snake, but there are no scientific identifications. A few of the illustrations are good, some are very bad. Boulenger identified most of the species, and I have been able to add a few more. The following is the list of my identifications, arranged in the order as given in this volume.

Species	Vol	Plates
<i>Cylindrophis rufus</i>	II	27, 28
<i>C. maculatus</i>	II	29
<i>Python molurus</i>	I	22, 23, 24, 39
<i>Eryx johni</i>	II	16, 17
<i>E. conicus</i>	I	4
<i>Elaphe helena</i>	I	32
<i>E. radiata</i>	II	42
<i>Ptyas korros</i>	I	25
<i>P. mucosus</i>	I	34
<i>Coluber fasciolatus</i>	I	21, 29.
<i>C. diadema</i>	II	30
<i>Oligodon subgriseus</i>	I	19
<i>O. arnensis</i>	I	35, 38
<i>O. octolineatus</i>	VI	38
<i>Ahaetulla tristis</i>	I	31
	II	25, 26
<i>Chrysopelea ornata</i>	II	1
<i>Lycodon jaya</i>	I	14
<i>L. aulicus</i>	II	37, 39
<i>L. sublineatus</i>	II	41.
<i>L. ? striatus</i>	I	16
<i>Dryocalamus nympha</i>	I	36, 37.
<i>Natrix piscator</i>	I & II	20, 28, 33 & 5, 14, 15 A, 13.
<i>N. stolata</i>	I & II	10, 11, ? 15 B
<i>N. vittata</i>	II	35

* For the full title, see p 554

Species	Vol	Plates
<i>Bonga multumaculata</i>	II	23
<i>B. trigonata</i>	I	15
<i>Psammophis condanaius</i>	I	27
<i>Dryophis nasutus</i>	I	12, 13
<i>D. prasinus</i>	II	24
<i>Atretium schistosum</i>	II	4
<i>Homalopsis buccata</i>	II	33
? <i>Oerbcus rhynchops</i>	I	17
<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>	I & II	1 & 31
<i>B. fasciatus</i>	I	3.
<i>Callophis trimaculatus.</i>	I.	8
<i>Naja naja</i>	I & II	5, 6 & 1, 36
<i>Keriba jerdoni</i>	II	12
<i>Enhydrina schistosa</i>	II	10, 11
<i>Hydriophis nigrocinctus</i>	II	6
<i>H. mamillaris</i>	I	44
<i>H. obscurus</i>	II	7, 8
<i>H. cyanocinctus</i>	II	9
<i>Pelamis platurus</i>	I	41
<i>Microcephalophis gracilis</i>	II	13.
<i>Mahicora intestinalis</i>	II	19
<i>Vipera russelli</i>	I & II	7 & 32.
<i>Echis carinata</i>	I	2
<i>Anristrodon hypnale</i>	II	22
<i>A. rhodostoma</i>	II	21
<i>Trimeresurus gramineus</i>	I	9.
<i>T. ? popeorum</i>	II	20

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ALPHABETICAL INDEX.

Ablabes, 181
 Acanthocalyx, 167
 Achalmus, 123, 126
 Acontias 404
 Acontiphis, 189
 Acrochordina, 19, 1. 5,
 181
 Acrochordus, 7 181
 acutimentalis Trimer-
 esurus, 521
 acutus, Ancistrodon,
 501
 acutus, Cerberus, 393
 acutus, Halys, 501
 acutus, Onychocephala-
 lus, 56
 acutus, Typhlops, 41
 43, 45, 56
 Adenophis, 419
 Adastem, 209
 Æpidea, 139
 Acpyurus, 441, 445
 aer, Homalopsis, 383
 affinis, Hypnale, 499
 affinis, Oligodon 201,
 230
 Agkistrodon, 494
 Aglypha, 27, 135
 Ahætulla, 27, 136, 138,
 239, 346, 370
 ahætulla, Ahætulla, 32,
 240, 241, 242
 ahætulla, Coluber, 241
 Apyrsurus, 445
 albicans, Python, 106
 albiceps Typhlops, 45,
 48
 albiventer, Oligodon
 arnensis, 225, 227
 albiventer, Simotes,
 225
 albocinctus, Coronella,
 211
 albocinctus, Oligodon,
 199, 211, 212
 albocinctus, Simotes,
 211

albolabris, Trimeresu-
 rus, 26, 503, 505,
 523.
 albolineata, Hypsi-
 hma, 383.
 Allophus, 139
 Alopecophis, 139
 alternans, Oligodon
 subgriseus, 223, 225
 amabilis, Simotes, 211
 Amblycephalidae, 114,
 115
 Amblycephalus, 116
 Amphiesma, 281
 Amphiphis, 361
 anamallensis, Lycodon,
 264, 266
 anamallensis Trimeres-
 surus, 513
 Ancistrodon, 478, 480,
 494
 andamanensis, Ahæ-
 tulla, 244
 andamanensis, Den-
 diophis picta 242
 andamanensis, Dipsa-
 domorphus, 352
 andamanensis, Typh-
 lops, 45, 56
 andersoni, Amblyce-
 phalus, 118
 andersoni, Calamohy-
 drus, 333
 andersoni, Opistho-
 tropis, 331, 333
 andersoni, Parcas, 118
 andersoni, Trimeres-
 surus purpureomac-
 ulatus, 520 521
 angh, Natrx, 283,
 285, 300
 angh, Rhabdophis,
 300.
 angusticeps, Contia,
 118
 angusticeps, Pseudo-
 xenodon, 312

angusticeps, Tropi-
 donotus, 312
 Anhypophysia, 10
 Anilidae, 39, 94
 Anisodon, 368
 annamensis, Ancistro-
 don, 197.
 annamensis, Calamaria
 pavementata, 238
 annamensis, Opistho-
 tropis, 331, 334
 annamensis, Paraheli-
 ops, 334
 annandalei, Distira,
 467
 annandalei Kolpophis.
 467
 annularis Bungarus,
 411
 annularis, Callophus,
 123
 annulata, Silybura 80
 annulatus Chersydrus, ;
 134
 annulatus Elapoides,
 258
 anomalous Thalasso-
 phis, 466
 anomalus, Dryophis
 myctezans 376
 anostomosatus, Colu-
 ber, 293
 anteorosorum Apro-
 aspidops 339
 Aplopeltura, 121
 Aproaspidops, 338
 aquefasciata, Natrx,
 282
 arcticeps, Uropeltis,
 75, 81
 arcticeps, Silybura, 81.
 arcuatus, Bungarus,
 413
 arenarius, Coluber,
 167, 175
 arenarius, Spalero-
 sophis 175

- aremicola*, *Echis*, 487
aremicola, *Typhlops*, 47, 48
Argyrogena, 167
Argyrophis, 43
arnensis, *Oligodon*, 200, 225
arnensis, *Simotes*, 225
asperrimus, *Natrix piscator*, 296
asperrimus, *Tropidonotus*, 293
Aspidoboa, 105
Aspidoclonion, 407
Aspidorhynchus, 43
Aspidura, 19, 137, 139, 384
Aspis, 426
Astrotia, 442, 471
atemporalis, *Natrix*, 283, 285, 287
atra, *Naja*, 128
Atretium, 137, 138, 319
atriceps, *Coluber diadema*, 174
atriceps, *Hydrophis fasciatus*, 465
atriceps, *Zamenis diadema*, 173
atrocaruleus, *Hydus*, 383
atrofrontalis, *Elaps*, 421
Atropophis, 502
Atropos, 502
atropurpureus, *Lycodon*, 263, 266
auchenia, *Natrix*, 309
auleus, *Lycodon*, 256, 257, 263, 268
auleus, *Ophites*, 263
aureus, *Plectrurus*, 71, 72
Azemnops, 478, 480

baileyi, *Natrix*, 282
bardi, *Lycodon*, 368
Balanophis, 27, 137, 138, 310
baholum, *Homalopsoma*, 184
balteatus, *Opisthotropis*, 331
balteatus, *Trimerodytes*, 331
bambusicola, *Pseudoxenodon*, 311, 313

banaensis, *Calamaria pavimentata*, 238
barmanus, *Typhlops*, 51
barnesi, *Boiga*, 354, 346
barnesi, *Dipsadomorphus*, 354
barroni, *Oligodon*, 199, 210
barroni, *Simotes*, 210
beddomei, *Callophis*, 419, 423
beddomei, *Dipsadomorphus*, 351, 352
beddomei, *Elaps*, 425
beddomei, *Natrix*, 284, 285, 306
beddomei, *Silybura*, 78
beddomei, *Simotes*, 220
beddomei, *Tropidonotus*, 306
beddomei, *Typhlops*, 44, 45, 53, 54
beddomei, *Uropeltis*, 73, 78
bedoti, *Laparophis*, 331
bellii, *Ahaetulla*, 242
bellii, *Leptophis*, 364
bellula, *Natrix*, 283, 285, 298
bellulus, *Tropidonotus*, 298
bengalensis, *Coluber*, 293
bengalensis, *Eryx*, 112
bennetti, *Enhydryis*, 381, 386
bennetti, *Hypsirhina*, 386
berdmorei, *Amblycephalus carmatus*, 120
berdmorei, *Paras*, 121
bibroni, *Callophis*, 419, 425
bicatenata, *Silybura*, 80
bicatenatus, *Simotes*, 202
bicolor, *Ablabes*, 328
bicolor, *Ablabes multicinctus*, 179
bicolor, *Argyrophis*, 51
bicolor, *Calamaria*, 328
bicolor, *Fordonia*, 396

bicolor, *Gerardia*, 395
bicolor, *Grotea*, 328
bicolor, *Liopeltis major*, 179
bicolor, *Pseudocyclophis*, 328
bicolor, *Rhabdops*, 328
bicolor, *Trimeresurus*, 522
bicornis, *Pseudocerastes*, 492
bifasciatus, *Bungarus fasciatus*, 411
bifrenalis, *Ahaetulla*, 242, 246
bifrenalis, *Dendrophis*, 246
bilineata, *Hypsirhina*, 383
bilineatum, *Melanophidum*, 66
bilineatus, *Elaps*, 303
bilineatus, *Platyplectrurus*, 68
biloreatus, *Dendrelaphis*, 246
binotatus, *Simotes*, 222
bi punctatus, *Coluber*, 261
bistrigatus, *Ablabes*, 279
bistrigatus, *Cynophis*, 149
bistrigatus, *Polyodonotophis*, 279
bistrigatus, *Sibynophis*, 276, 279
bitaeniata, *Natrix*, 288
Bitia, 380, 389
bituberculatus, *Hydrophis*, 451, 458
bivittatus, *Python*, 106
bivittatus, *Python molurus*, 108
bizonatus, *Scytalx*, 487
blakewayi, *Plagiophilis*, 325
blanfordi, *Glaucosia*, 61
blanfordi, *Hypsirhina*, 387
blanfordi, *Leptotyphlops*, 60, 61
blomhoffi, *Ancistrodon*, 479
blumenbachii, *Coluber*, 160

- blythi, *Rhinophis*, 88
Blythia 137, 139, 388
boa, *Amblycephalus*, 122
boa, *Haplopeltura*, 122
boaeformis, *Coluber*, 106
boaeformis, *Elaps*, 393
boacourti, *Enhydria*, 381, 388
boacourti, *Hypsinina*, 388
Boidae, 39, 102
boiei, *Chrysopelea* 246
boiei, *Dendrophis*, 248
Boiga, 137 139 344
boiga, *Ahaetulla*, 242
boiga, *Dendrophis*, 242
Boigmae, 135
bora, *Python*, 106
bothriorhynchus, *Typhlops*, 44 45, 53
Bothrodytes 281
Bothrophis, 502
Bothrops, 502
boulengeri, *Rhinophis*, 193
Brachyophidium, 69
brachyorrhus, *Aspidura*, 336
brachyorrhus, *Scytale*, 336
Brachyrrhynchus, 418
brachyura, *Coronella*, 194, 195
brachyurum, *Amphiesma*, 315
brachyurus, *Zamenis*, 195
braconieri, *Achalnus*, 127
braconieri, *Enicognathus*, 280
braminus, *Coluber*, 293
braminus, *Eryx*, 46
braminus, *Typhlops*, 41, 44, 45, 46
brevicauda, *Oligodon*, 201, 281
brevicauda, *Sumotes*, 202, 204, 231
brovi, *Silybura*, 80
brookeri, *Hydrophis*, 452, 465
broughami, *Silybura*, 83
broughami, *Tropeltis*, 64, 75, 83
brunnea, *Holarchus formosanus*, 208
bubalina, *Dipsas* 155
buccata, *Himalopsis*, 390
bungaroides, *Bungarus*, 409, 410
bungaroides, *Elaps*, 410.
bungaroides, *Xenurelaps*, 410
Bungarus, 406 407
bungarus, *Naja* 436
burmanus, *Cylindrophis rufus* 97
careus, *Coluber* 427
caerulea, *Enhydria*, 383
caeruleus, *Hydrophis*, 452, 463
caeruleus, *Bungarus*, 25, 409, 410 412, 413, 416, 418
caeruleus, *Bungarus candidus*, 413
Calamaria 136 138, 286
calamaria, *Ablates*, 184
calamaria, *Cyclophus*, 184
calamaria, *Laopeltis*, 182 184
calamarius, *Coluber*, 228, 237
calamarius, *Oligodon*, 200, 228
Calamohydus, 130
caldwelli, *Gonyosoma*, 114
callicephalus, *Coronella*, 154
callichroma, *Natrix*, 284, 285, 309
callichroma, *Natrix chrysarga*, 309
Callopeltis, 130
Callophus, 407 418
Callosclasma, 494
Campylodon 394
canarensis, *Leptophis*, 373
canaria, *Silybura*, 72
canarius, *Plectrurus*, 71, 72
canarius, *Pseudoplectrurus*, 72
candidus, *Bungarus* 409, 413, 416
Cantonophis, 330
cantoni, *Trimeresurus* 504, 519
cantoni, *Trimeresurus viridis* 519
Cantoria 380, 397.
cantoris, *Elaphe* 142 152
cantoris, *Hydrophis* 475
cantoris, *Lachesis* 519
cantoris, *Microcephalophis* 475
capueinus, *Lygodon auticus* 263, 265
carinata, *Aspidura* 341
carinata, *Elaphe* 142 154
carinata, *Herpetodryas malabaricus* 149
carinata, *Phyllorhynchus*, 154
carinatus, *Amblycephalus*, 121
carinatus, *Cercaspius*, 268.
carinatus, *Echis* 478 487.
carinatus, *Lygodon*, 268
carinatus, *Pateas*, 117, 121
carinatus, *Ptyas*, 164
carinatus, *Trimeresurus*, 521, 522
carinatus, *Zaoecys*, 164
carltoni, *Glauconia*, 61.
castanea, *Python*, 106
Catachlena, 189
catenata, *Oligodon* 201, 282
catenularis, *Coluber*, 350
caudaensis, *Holarchus taeniatus*, 210
caudolincata, *Ahaetulla*, 242, 250
caudolincatus, *Dendrelaphis*, 250.
caudolincatus, *Dendrophis*, 247
caudolmeolata, *Ahaetulla*, 240, 242, 247.
Cenchris, 494

- cerasurus Callophus*, 425
cerasogaster Xenochrophus 317
Cerastes, 490
Ceratophallus 281
Cerberus, 380, 392
Cercaspis 136 138 256, 267
ceylanicus Uropeltis, 63, 74, 80
ceylonensis Balanophus, 310
ceylonensis Boiga, 25, 347 351
ceylonensis Dipsadomorphus, 351
ceylonensis Dipsas, 351
ceylonensis Dipsas forsteri, 358
ceylonensis Dryocalamus nympha, 274
ceylonensis Haploecicus, 341
ceylonensis Trimeresurus, 490
ceylonensis Tropidonotus, 310
ceylonensis Tropidonotus chrysargus 310
ceylonicus Bungarus, 409, 415
ceylonicus Oligodon tenuolatus 223
ceylonicus Silubouia 75
ceylonicus Typhlops, 45, 55
chaereceos Dendrophus, 248
chalybaeus Alopocophis, 145
chalybaeus Hemiodontus, 396
Changulia, 236
chapaense Dinodon septentrionale, 270
chapaensis Elaphe leonardi, 156, 157
chapaensis Pararhabdophis, 316
Chatachlein, 189
Chersydrus, 131
chesnei Coluber, 168
chinensis Ablabes, 278
chinensis Dryophis prasinus, 375
chinensis Enhydria, 381, 387
chinensis Holarchus, 206
chinensis Hypsirhina, 387
chinensis Oligodon, 198, 206
chinensis Ptavaskorros, 162
chinensis Sibynophis, 276, 278
chinensis Simotes, 206
chloris Herpetodryas, 178
chrysarga Natix, 284, 285, 308
chrysargus Tropidonotus, 288, 308 305
Chrysopelen, 27, 137, 138, 250, 346
cinerea Python, 106
cinereus Cerberus, 393
cinereus Oligodon, 197, 199, 215
cinereus Simotes, 215
cinereus Typhlops 51
clerkii Natix 288
Clothonia, 111
cochinchinensis Simotes, 202, 204
collaris Natix swinhonis, 284
collaris Polyodontophis, 277
collaris Sibynophis 276, 277
Coloburus, 73
Coluber, 23, 135 138, 139, 166, 175
coluber Colubrinus, 277
Colubridæ, 7, 39 114
colubrina Laticauda, 443
Colubrina, 135
Composoma, 139
concinus Callophus 422
concolor Callophus maclellandi, 424
concolor Xenopeltis, 101
condanarus Psammophis, 363, 364
conicus Eryx, 111
conicus Gongylophus 112
Constrictor, 103
Contia, 23 136 138, 187
convictus Trimeresurus, 508
coorgensis Lachesis 513
copu Aspidura 386
cornutus Trimeresurus, 504, 514
Coronella, 135 138, 193
Coronellina, 135
crassus Simotes 206
Crealia, 73
Crotaline, 478
cruentatus Oligodon 199, 221
Cryptelytropis, 502
Cursoria, 111
curtus Lapemis, 470
curvirostris Coluber, 170
cyanea Boiga 347, 355
cyanochloris Abætulla, 242, 244
cyanochloris Dendrophis pictus, 244
cyanocincta Leiose-lasma, 454
cyanocinctus Hydrophus, 451, 454
Cyclophlops, 177
Cyclophus, 177
cyclurus Holarchus, 202
cyclurus Oligodon, 197, 198, 202
cyclurus Simotes 202
Cylindrophis, 26 94
Cynophis 139
cynodon Boiga 347, 357
cynodon Dipsadomorphus, 377
Daboia, 482
Dapatnaya, 87
darwin Atropos, 514
Dasypeltidæ 40, 114, 403
Dasypeltis, 490
davidsoni Plectrurus, 71
davidsoni Dryocalamus, 273, 274
davidsoni Hydrophobus, 274
dayana Cantoria, 398.

- decorus, Coluber, 242
 delacouri, Coluber, 178
 delacouri, Plagiopholis, 325, 326
 Dendraspis, 426
 Dendrelaphus, 239
 Dendrophis, 239
 deschauenseei, Natrix, 290
 dhumna, Coluber, 160
 diadema, Coluber, 159, 167, 172
 diadema, Dolichodira, 457
 diadema, Hydriophis torquatus, 451, 460
 diadema, Spalerosophis, 173
 diadema, Zamenis, 173
 Diaphorotyllops, 43
 diardi, Typhlops, 42, 43, 44, 45, 51
 Dicraulus, 195
 Dieurostus, 380
 dightoni, Boiga, 347, 359
 dightoni, Dipsadomorphus, 350
 dightoni, Dipsas, 350
 dimidigaleus, Silybura, 77.
 dimidigaleus, Uropeltis, 73, 77
 Dinodon, 136, 138, 256, 269
 Diplophallus, 281
 Dipsadidae, 115
 Dipsadinae, 114, 115
 Dipsadomorphus, 344
 Dipsas, 344
 dipsas, Tropidonotus, 288
 dispar, Dryophis, 372, 378
 Dispholidus, 139
 distant, Leptotyphlops, 58
 Distira, 446, 447, 451
 diversiceps, Typhlops, 48, 50
 Dolophis, 419
 dolleyanus, Holarchus, 215.
 dora, Coluber, 293
 doriae, Ablabes, 181
 doriae, Eurypholis, 181
 doriae, Uropeltis, 181
 doriae, Ophedrys, 177, 181.
 dorsale Gonyosoma, 169
 dorsalis, Oligodon, 201, 234
 dorsumaculatus, Rhinophis, 526
 dorsolateralis, Simotes alboimetus, 202, 204
 Dromophis, 139
 drummond-hayi, Aspidura, 336, 338
 drummond-hayi, Rhinophis, 88, 89
 Dryinus, 370
 Dryocalamus, 7, 136, 272
 Dryophis, 137, 139, 346, 370
 dubius, Aciochordus, 132
 dubius, Oligodon, 225
 dubius, Xenodon, 223
 dupensi Silybura, 76
 dussumieri Enhydris, 381, 389
 dussumieri, Eurostus, 389
 Dyastiches, 370
 eberhardti, Oligodon herberti, 232
 Eberhardtia, 116
 Echis, 480, 487.
 echis, Vipera, 487.
 effrenus, Dendrophis, 247.
 Eirenis, 187
 eisenhoferi, Tropidonotus, 307
 Elachistodon, 404
 Elachistodontinae, 403.
 Elaphe, 136, 138, 189, 175
 Elapidae, 40, 406
 elapiformis, Hemodontus, 398
 elapiformis, Hydriodipsas, 398
 elaps, Hamadryas, 436
 elegans, Coluber jansoni, 145
 elegans, Trimeresurus, 518
 elegans, Vipera, 483
 Ellioti, Oligodon, 223, 225.
 Ellioti, Silybura, 75, 78, 82
 Ellioti, Trigonocephalus, 314
 Ellioti, Uropeltis, 63, 73, 75
 elongata, Cantoria, 398
 Emmophilus, 321
 Enhydrina, 441, 449
 Enhydris, 379, 380, 468
 onhydris, Enhydris, 381, 383
 onhydris, Hypsiluna, 383
 Entechinus, 177
 Erastocophus, 19, 478, 479, 480, 492
 erythrogaster, Oligodon, 201, 232
 erythrorhachis, Oligodon, 200, 213, 229
 erythrostictus, Tropidonotus stolata, 303, 304
 erythrurus, Trimeresurus, 503, 504, 522, 524, 525
 Eryx, 103, 105, 111
 Eudipsas, 344
 Eumosedon, 269
 euphratica, Vipera, 486
 Eurostus, 380
 Eurypholis, 177
 evansi, Oligodon, 327
 excipiens, Typhlops, 56
 eydouxii, Aepyurus, 445
 eydouxii, Apyrus, 445
 fasciata, Ahaetulla, 241, 242
 fasciata, Naja, 427
 fasciata, Naja tripudians, 428
 fasciatus, Aciochordus, 134
 fasciatus, Bungarus, 409, 411
 fasciatus, Hipistes, 400
 fasciatus, Hydrophis, 452, 464
 fasciatus, Lycodora, 256, 257, 266, 271

- fasciatus* Oligodon, 223, 225
fasciatus, Ophites, 256
fasciolatus, Coluber, 159, 167, 170
fasciolatus, Simotes, 202, 204
fasciolatus, Zameus, 170
fasciatus, Azemops, 480
Ferania, 380.
Feranioides, 380
fergusoni, Odontomus, 275
fergusoni, Rhinophis, 88, 90
ferruginea, Dipsas, 368
Fimbrios, 123, 128
finitu Rhabdophis, 305
finitu, Tropidonotus, 305
flavescens, Dryophis, 375.
flavescens, Heleophis, 394
flaviceps, Bungarus, 409, 410
flaviceps, Macro-
pisthodon, 17
flavipunctata, Natrix
piscator, 296
flavipunctatum, Am-
phisma, 293
flavolineata, Coluber, 148
flavolineata, Elaphe, 142, 148
flavomaculatus,
Lycodon, 257, 262
flavozonatus Dinodon,
256, 270, 271
flet heri, Typhlops, 47,
48
floweri, Coluber, 145
floweri, Typhlops, 45,
48
Fordonia, 380, 396
formosa, Ahatulla, 244
formosanus, Holarchus,
208
formosanus, Oligodon,
198, 208
formosanus, Simotes,
208
formosensis, Vipera
russii, 485
forsteri, Boiga, 347,
358
forsteri, Dipsadomor-
phus, 358
forsteri, Dipsas, 358
Fowlea, 281
frenata Echis, 487
frenata Elaphe, 142,
144
frenatus, Ablabes, 182
frenatus Herpeto-
dryas, 144
frenatus, Liopeltis, 182
frontimaculatus, Dryo-
phus, 372, 374
frustorferi, Pseudo-
xenodon, 307
furcata, Hypsirhina,
383
fusca, Calamaria,
322
fuscum, Trachischium,
322
gabrielis, Lytorhyn-
chus, 190
galathea, Lycodon,
261
gammiei, Dinodon,
256, 270, 271
gammiei, Lycodon,
271.
gammiei Ophites, 271.
Gephyrinus, 370
Gerardia, 380, 394
gerardi, Aytilla, 90
Gerrhopilus, 43
giganta, Hypsirhina,
388
Gigantophis, 103
gilgatus, Ablabes,
322
gilhodesi, Natrix, 289
Glaucina, 60
Glaucinae, 59
gokool, Boiga, 346, 351
gokool, Dipsadomor-
phus, 351.
gokool Dipsas, 351
Gongylophus, 111
Gongylusuma, 181.
Goniomotus, 123
Gonyodipsas, 344
Gonyophis, 18
Gonyosoma, 139.
gori Ahatulla, 242,
244, 246
gori Colophis mac-
illendi, 424
gori Liodophis, 246
grabowskyi Elaphe,
151
gracilis, Coluber, 167,
171
gracilis, Dryocalamus,
273, 275
gracilis, Hydrophobus,
275
gracilis, Microcephalo-
phus, 472
gracilis, Zamenis, 171
grahami, Polyodon-
tophus, 280
grahami, Sibynophis,
276, 280
grammeum, Gongy-
soma, 143
grammneus, Lachesis,
516
grammneus, Trimere-
surus, 503, 504, 515,
517, 518, 523, 525
grandis, Rhinophis, 85
grandis, Silytusa, 85
grandis, Uropektis, 62,
63, 75, 85, 93
grandoculus, Ahatulla,
240, 242, 245
grandoculus, Den-
driophis, 245
grandoculus, Den-
driophis formosus,
245
granti, Cerberus, 393
granulatus, Acrocho-
rus, 131, 132, 134
granulatus, Chersy-
drus, 132, 134
grayi, Enicognathus,
280
gregori, Dendrophis,
247
Grotea, 327
groundwateri, Natrix,
282, 291
Gryptotyphlops, 43
guentheri, Aspidura,
336, 338
guentheri, Plectrurus,
71, 72
guentheri, Silytusa, 85,
guentheri, Trachis-
chium, 322, 323
hamana Elaphe por-
phyaca, 165
hamanensis, Boiga
multimaculata, 347.

- hainanensis, Siny-nophus, 278
 hainanus, Amblycephalus carinatus, 120
 hainanus, Simotes, 208
 Halys, 494
 halys, Anastrodon, 495, 499
 Hamadryas, 426
 hamptoni, Ablabes, 180
 hamptoni, Amblycephalus, 120
 hamptoni, Oligodon, 201, 235
 hamptoni, Opheodrys, 177, 180
 hamptoni, Pareas, 117, 120
 hannah, Hamadryas, 436
 hannah Naja, 436
 Haploccelus, 137, 139, 340
 Haploplectura, 115, 121
 hardwicki, Homalopsis, 390
 hardwicki, Hypsirhina, 382
 hardwicki, Lacerta, 468
 hebe, Coluber, 170
 helena, Coluber, 149
 helena, Dendrophis, 248
 helena Elaphe, 142, 149
 Heleophis, 394
 Helicops, 138, 310
 Helicopsoides, 330
 helleri Natrix subannulata, 302, 303
 Hemibungarus, 418
 Hemidontus, 396
 herberti, Oligodon, 232
 Herpeton, 380, 400
 Herpetosaurus, 281
 Herpetotragus, 370
 Heurina, 379
 hewstoni, Platyploc-tus, 70
 hexagonotus, Coluber, 176
 hexagonotus, Dipsa-domorphus, 348
 hexagonotus, Dipsas, 348, 355
 hexagonotus, Ptyas, 176
 hexagonotus, Xenolaphis, 176
 himalayana, Natrix, 283, 285, 300
 himalayana, Anastrodon, 495
 himalayana, Macro-pisthodon, 300
 himalayana, Tropi-donotus, 300
 himalayana, Zamenis, 305
 Hipistes, 399
 hodgsoni, Coluber, 152
 hodgsoni, Elaphe, 142, 152
 Holarchus, 195, 196
 Homalophis, 380
 Homalopsis, 17, 114, 379
 Homalopsis, 380, 390
 homolepis, Rhinophis, 88, 90
 hongkongensis, Natrix subannulata, 302
 horatta, Boa, 187
 horridus Coluber, 390
 horsfieldi, Argyrophis, 51
 hughii, Callophis, 419, 421
 humberti, Enico-gnathus, 279
 Huria, 392
 hydrina, Homalopsis, 400
 hydrinus, Hipistes, 400
 Hydrodipsas, 397
 hydroides, Bitia, 399, 400
 Hydrophidus, 40, 406, 439
 Hydrophis, 441, 451, 472
 Hydrophobus, 272
 Hydropsis, 396
 Hydrus, 475
 Hypnale, 494
 hypnale, Anastrodon, 495, 499, 501
 Hypophysis, 10
 Hypsirhina, 380
 hypsirhinoides, Tytleria, 264
 Hypsicopus, 380
 ibibiboca, Coluber, 251.
 Ilysuda, 94
 inas, Natrix, 282, 291
 indica, Boiga multi-maculata, 347
 indicus, Dryophis prasinus, 375
 indicus, Helicops, 383
 indicus, Psammophis, 364
 indicus, Ptyas korros, 162
 indicus, Xylophis, 343
 indochinensis, Psammophis condanarus, 365
 inexpectata, Wallia, 69
 ingens Naja, 436
 innominata, Enhydris, 381, 385
 innominata, Hypsirhina, 385
 inornatus, Simotes, 215, 217
 insularis, Bungarus fasciatus, 411
 isabellinus, Dryophis myctezans, 377
 jacobii, Opisthotropis, 331, 338
 jaculus, Eryx, 113
 jagorii, Enhydris, 381, 384
 jamaëticus, Foranoides, 389
 jara, Leptorhiza, 261
 jara, Lycodon, 257, 260
 javanicus, Acrochordus, 130, 131, 132
 javanicus, Xenodermus, 124
 javanus, Coluber, 109
 jerdoni, Kerilia, 447
 jerdoni, Lachesis, 510
 jerdoni, Trimeresurus, 504, 510
 jerdoni, Typhlops, 45, 50
 johannis, Natrix, 282
 johannis, Tropidonotus, 290
 johni, Boa, 113
 johni, Eryx jaculus, 113

- johni, Eryx johni, 112, 118
 jollyi, Dipsadomorphus, 360
 joynsoni, Oligodon, 199, 218
 joynsoni, Simotes longicauda, 218
 juglandifer, Oligodon, 198, 207
 juglandifer, Simotes albocinctus, 207
 junceus, Tropidonotus, 308

 kanburiensis, Trimeresurus, 504, 519
 kaoutha, Naja naja, 428, 431
 karelini, Coluber, 167, 169
 karelini, Zamenis, 169
 kaulbacki, Trimeresurus, 504, 512
 kelloggii Callophaps, 419, 426
 kelloggii Hemibungarus, 426
 kerensis, Oligodon, 202, 204
 Kerria, 441, 446
 khandallensis Callophaps nigrescens, 422
 khasiensis, Natrax, 283, 285, 289
 khasiensis, Stoliczkaia, 125, 126
 khasiensis, Tropidonotus, 289
 klossi, Fimbrios, 128
 klossi, Hydrophus, 451, 457
 Kolpophus, 441, 467
 korros, Ptyas, 159, 162
 korros, Zamenis, 162
 kundui, Lycodon, 257, 260
 kwangsiensis, Stoliczkaia, 127

 labialis, Trimeresurus, 505, 525
 Lachesis, 502
 lacrovi, Oligodon, 236
 ladacensis, Zamenis, 169

 laeve, Trachischium, 322, 324
 lankadivans Dapattaya, 92
 laobaoensis, Natrax (Rhabdophis), 302
 laobaoensis, Rhabdophis himalayanus, 302
 laosensis Lycodon, 257, 259
 Lapemis, 442, 468
 lapemoides, Hydrophus, 452, 461
 larvata, Naja, 428
 lateralis, Opisthotropis, 331, 332
 lateralis, Tropidonotus piscator, 294
 Laticauda, 440, 441, 442
 laticaudata Laticauda, 442
 lebetina, Vipera, 482, 486
 Leirolepis, 494
 leithi, Psammophis, 363, 366
 leonardi Coluber, 156
 leonardi, Elaphe, 142, 156
 leonardi Natrax, 284
 Lepidocephalus, 268
 lepidostrophus, Diophis mycterizans, 377
 Leptorhynchus, 23, 189
 Leptorhytaon, 255
 Leptotyphlopidae, 39, 59
 Leptotyphlops, 60
 Lepturophus, 138
 leucobalia, Fordonia, 386
 leucocephala, Xenopeltis, 101
 leucomelas, Typhlops, 45, 50
 levingi, Silybura, 83
 libertatis, Liopeltis, 162
 liljeborgi Anisodon, 368
 limbricki, Typhlops, 47, 48, 50
 limitis Vipera russelli, 485
 lineata Boa, 413

 lineolata, Emmophis, 323
 lineolatus, Coluber (Taphrometapon), 367
 lineolatus, Psammophis, 363, 365, 367
 lineolatus, Taphrometapon, 367
 liocercus, Leptophis, 241
 Liodytes, 138
 Liopeltis, 136, 138, 181
 Liophallus, 344
 Liparophis, 330
 liura, Silybura, 81
 liura, Uropeltis, 77, 84
 lividus, Bungarus, 409, 418
 longicauda, Enhydrys, 381, 386
 longicauda, Holarchus, violaceus, 206
 longicauda, Hypsinna, 386
 longicauda, Simotes, 206
 longifrons, Psammophis, 363, 365
 longilineata, Elaphe porphyracea, 155
 lusingtoni, Potamophis, 383
 lutrescens, Naja, 427
 Lycodon, 136, 138, 255, 267, 269
 Lycophidion, 138
 Lytorhynchus, 23, 136, 138, 189

 maclellandi, Callophaps, 419, 423, 426
 mcdougalli, Oligodon, 201, 234
 mackinnoni, Lycodon, 257, 268
 mackinnoni, Typhlops, 46
 memahoni, Contia, 189
 memahoni, Eristocophus, 493
 Macrocephalus, 344
 macrolepis Lachesis, 505
 macrolepis, Silybura, 79.
 macrolepis, Trimeresurus, 504, 505.

- macrolepis, *Uropeltis*, 63, 64, 74, 79
Macropisthodon, 19, 136, 138, 314
macrops, *Pseudoxenodon*, 32, 33, 311
macrops, *Tropidonotus*, 311
macrorhyncha *Silybura*, 78
macrorhynchus, *Glauconia*, 60
macrorhynchus, *Leptotyphlops*, 60
macrorhynchus, *Uropeltis*, 64, 73, 78
macrurus, *Holarchus violaceus*, 207
macrurus, *Oligodon*, 198, 207
macrurus, *Simotes violaceus*, 207
macularius, *Amblycephalus*, 118
macularius, *Pareas*, 116, 118
maculata, *Hypsirhina*, 386, 387
maculata, *Naja*, 427
maculata, *Pareas*, 508
maculata, *Silybura*, 83
maculatus, *Cylindrophis*, 95, 98
maculatus, *Uropeltis*, 61, 75, 83
maculiceps, *Callophis*, 419, 420
maculiceps, *Elaps*, 420
maculosa, *Enhydria*, 381, 387
maculosa, *Hypsirhina*, 387
maduensis, *Platyplecturus*, 67, 68, 69
maduensis, *Silybura*, 81
magnumaculatus, *Bungarus*, 409, 417.
magnumaculatus, *Bungarus caeruleus*, 47
major, *Cyclophis*, 178
major, *Eurypholis*, 178
major, *Opheodrys*, 159, 177, 178
malabarica, *Hypsirhina*, 388
malabaricus, *Elaps*, 419
malabaricus, *Herpetodryas*, 149.
malabanicus, *Lachesis*, 513
malabaricus, *Trimeresurus*, 504, 513
malaisi, *Typhlops*, 48
malignus, *Coluber*, 261
mamillaris *Hvdiophis*, 452, 482
manas *Leptophis*, 248
mandarina, *Coluber*, 157
mandarina, *Elaphe*, 142, 157
maniai, *Dendrophis*, 248
margaritophorus, *Lopognathus*, 117
margaritophorus, *Pareas*, 116, 117
Maticora, 419
Maudia, 71
maynardi, *Lytorhynchus*, 189, 191, 192.
Megablades, 167
Megera, 502
Megrophis, 407
Mezodon, 193, 194
melaneus, *Oligodon*, 207, 229
melanocephalus, *Dipsadomorphus trigonata*, 349
melanogaster, *Mytila*, 86
melanogaster, *Silybura*, 79, 86
melanogaster, *Uropeltis*, 64, 75, 88
Melanophidium, 61, 65
melanozonotus *Oligodon*, 199, 213
melanurus, *Coluber*, 148, 149
melanurus, *Callophis*, 419, 429
melanzostus, *Natrix piscator*, 297
melanzostus, *Tropidonotus*, 293
melli, *Lachesis*, 510
melli, *Pseudoxenodon*, 313
melli, *Rhadinophis*, 144
meridianus, *Achalinus*, 123
meridionale, *Dinodon rufozonatum*, 271
meridionalis, *Trimeresurus jerdoni*, 510
meridionalis, *Trimeresurus monticola*, 508
Microcephalophis, 442, 472
microcephalum, *Rhabdosoma*, 342
microlepis, *Rhinophis*, 88, 89
Miko, 361
Mimophis, 139
millardi, *Aneistrodon*, 499, 501
Miraha, 380
mirus, *Typhlops*, 45, 55
modesta, *Natrix*, 283, 285, 290
modestus, *Amblycephalus*, 118
modestus, *Pareas*, 118
modestus, *Tropidonotus*, 290
moellendorffi, *Amblycephalus*, 117
moellendorffi, *Coluber*, 153
moellendorffi, *Elaphe*, 142, 153
moellendorffi, *Pareas*, 117
moestus, *Tropidonotus*, 319
moi, *Zamensis*, 179
molurus, *Homalopsis*, 393
molurus, *Python*, 25, 103, 108
monolis, *Coluber*, 390
monticola, *Amblycephalus*, 118
monticola, *Calamaria*, 122
monticola, *Dipsas*, 118
monticola, *Lachesis*, 504
monticola *Natrix*, 284, 285, 308
monticola *Pareas*, 115, 116, 118
monticola *Trachischium*, 322
monticola, *Trimeresurus*, 114, 503
monticola, *Tropidonotus*, 308

monticolus, Coluber, 225
monticornis Lytorhynchus 191
Morina 87
mortuarius Coluber, 293.
mouhoti, Simotes
 venustus, 208
mucosus Ptyas, 25, 159
mucosus, *Zamenis*, 139
mucroquamatus
 Trimersurus, 504, 507
mukoi Typhlops 51
multicinctus Opisthotropis 31
multicinctus Ablabes, 179
multicinctus, *Hungaria* 409 416
multicinctus *Hungaria* *candidus* 416
multicinctus, *Eurypholis* 179
multicinctus, *Liopeltis* *major* 179
multicinctus *Ophiodon* 177 179
multifasciata, *Boiga* 357
multifasciata, *Dipsadomorphus*, 357
multifasciata, *Dipsas*, 357
multifasciatus, *Simotes*, 215, 216
multineta, *Hapsirhina*, 388
multimaculata *Boiga*, 25 346, 347
multimaculata *Dipsadomorphus* 347
multimaculata, *Dipsas*, 347
multitemporalis *Boiga*, 347, 356
mutabilis *Trimersurus*, 325
mycterizans Coluber, 241, 376
mycterizans, *Dryophis*, 372 376
myhendree, *Silybura*, 83
myhendree, *Uropeltis*, 75 83
Myron, 379

Naja 406, 407, 426
naja, *Naja*, 427
napei *Lycodon*, 261
nasalis *Cyclophis* 194
nasuta, *Ahretulla* 376
nasuta *Passerita*, 376
nasutus, *Dryophis*, 370, 372, 376
Natriana, 137
Natrix, 27, 136, 138, 281 283
neelgherriensis, *Tigonoccephalus*, 514
nepa *Anastrodon*, 495 499, 500
nepi, *Ptyalia*, 500
Nerodia 281 283
nesiotus *Holarchus*, 206
negasonensis *Dendrophis pictus* 242
neoharicus *Tropidonotus* 289
neoharicus *Ablabes*, 155
neoharicus, *Liopeltis* 182, 185
neoharicus *Natrix*, 281 285 289
neoharicus, *Tropidonotus* 289
niger *Achalma*, 127
niger *Bungarus*, 409 417.
nigra, *Silybura*, 79
nigrescens, *Callophis*, 419 422
nigrescens, *Hemibungarus* 422, 423
nigricenter *Callophis* *maclellandi*, 423.
nigriventris, *Natrix*, 286
nigroalbus, *Typhlops*, 51
nigrocincta *Echiscarinata*, 487
nigrocincta, *Natrix*, 284 285, 307
nigrocinctus, *Hydrophis* 451 452
nigrocinctus, *Tropidonotus*, 307
nigrofasciata, *Elaphoporphyracea*, 154, 156
nigrofasciatus, *Psammodphis*, 154.

nigromarginatus, *Dipsas*, 355
nigromarginatus, *Ptyas*, 165
nigromarginatus, *Trigonoccephalus*, 506
nigromarginatus, *Zaocys*, 164, 165
nigromarginatus *Zaocys dhumades*, 165
nigheerensis *Silybura*, 80
nitida, *Silybura*
nitidus *Uropeltis* 73, 76
nivalis, *Natrix*, 284
nuchalis *Dipsadomorphus* 351
nuchalis, *Dipsas* 351
nuchalis *Natrix* 283 284 285
nuchalis *Plagiopholis* 325, 326
nuchalis, *Terrhinopholis*, 325, 326
nuchalis, *Tropidonotus*, 284
nuthalli Coluber, 151
Nympha, 272
nympha, *Dryocalamus*, 273, 274
nympha, *Hydrophobus*, 274
Nymphophidium, 272

oatesi, *Typhlops*, 45, 53
obsкуро-striata, *Calamaria*, 322
obscurus, *Hydrophis*, 451 457
obscurus, *Simotes*, 206
obscurus, *Trimersurus* 502
obscurus, *Tropidonotus piscator*, 294
obtusa *Vipera* 486
obtusatus Coluber, 393
occidentalis *Trimersurus*, 515
ocellata, *Python*, 106
ocellata, *Silybura*, 76
ocellatus, *Uropeltis* 73, 76
ochiacea, *Boiga*, 346, 348.

- ochracea, *Silybura*, 76
 ochraceus, *Dipsas*, 348
 octolineata, *Natrix*, 282, 288
Odontomus, 272
Oligodon, 135, 138, 195
oligolepis, *Typhlops*, 45, 55
oligozonatus, *Lycodon aulicus*, 264
 olivacea, *Megara*, 506
olivaceus, *Ablabes*, 328.
olivaceus, *Homalopsis*, 383
olivaceus, *Pseudocyclophus*, 328
olivaceus, *Rhabdops*, 328
Opetiodon, 344
Ophedrys, 136, 138, 177
Ophielaps, 126
Ophiophagus, 427
ophiophagus, *Hamadryas*, 436
Ophites, 255
Opisthoglypha, 2, 27, 137
Opisthotropis, 19, 26, 137, 139, 330
orbiculata, *Python*, 106
ornata, *Boa*, 112
ornata, *Chrysopelea*, 251, 254
ornaticeps, *Natrix*, 282
ornatissima, *Chrysopelea ornata*, 251
ornatus, *Hydrophis*, 452, 460
ornatus, *Tropidonotus himalayanus*, 300
ornithophaga, *Elaphe carinata*, 154
oweni, *Ablabes*, 186
oxiana, *Naja naja*, 428, 434
oxiana, *Tomyris*, 428
oxycephala, *Elaphe*, 142, 144.
oxycephalum, *Gonyosoma*, 144
oxycephalus, *Coluber*, 144
oxyrhynchus, *Dryinus*, 376,
- oxyrhynchus Rhinophis*, 64, 87, 88, 92
oxyrhynchus, *Typhlops*, 92
- pallidocinctus*, *Simotes violaceus*, 215, 217
pallidus, *Coluber tæniurus*, 151
pallidus, *Typhlops*, 47
palustris, *Hydrus*, 293
Pantheriophis, 149
Pappophis, 344
paradisi, *Chrysopelea*, 251, 253, 254
paradoxus, *Lytorhynchus*, 189, 191
Paralichthys, 330
parallela, *Natrix*, 283, 285, 288
parallela, *Tropidonotus*, 288
Pararhabdophis, 137, 138, 316
Paratapinophis, 330
pardalis, *Uropeltis*, 93
Parcas, 115, 116
Paras, 502
parviceps, *Hydrophis*, 452, 465
Passerita, 370
paucifasciatus, *Lycodon*, 257, 267
pavimentata, *Calamaria*, 237, 238
pavo, *Ablabes*, 157
pealei, *Vipera*, 486
peali, *Natrix*, 283, 285, 291
peali, *Tropidonotus*, 291.
peguensis, *Fowlea*, 292
Pelamis, 442, 475
Pelophis, 380.
Peltopelor, 502
pentalineatus, *Callophus*, 422
percarinata, *Natrix*, 283, 285, 299
percarinata, *Natrix annularis*, 299
percarinatus, *Tropidonotus*, 299
perroteti, *Dryophis*, 372, 373
perroteti, *Platypteryx*, 342.
perroteti, *Plectrurus*, 71
- perroteti*, *Xylophus*, 342
persica, *Contia*, 188
persicus, *Cerastes*, 490
persicus, *Cyclophus*, 188
persicus, *Pseudocerastes*, 490
persicus, *Pseudocyclophus*, 188
personatus, *Elaps*, 423
petersi, *Silybura*, 84
petersi, *Uropeltis*, 75, 84
philippinus, *Pseudotyphlops*, 98
philippinus, *Rhinophis*, 88, 91
philippinus, *Typhlops*, 91
philippinus, *Uropeltis*, 93
phillipsi, *Silybura*, 87
phillipsi, *Uropeltis*, 64, 75, 87
phipsoni, *Silybura*, 82
phipsoni, *Uropeltis*, 75, 82
Phragmitophis, 181
phrygia, *Boa*, 109
Phyllophus, 139
phylophus, *Coluber*, 154
Phyllorhynchus, 138
Phytolopsis, 380
picta, *Silybura*, 81
pictus, *Dendrophis*, 241, 244, 248
Pildion, 43
piscator, *Natrix*, 25, 285, 293, 293
piscator, *Tropidonotus*, 293
Plagiodon, 139
Plagiopholis, 137, 139, 324
planiceps, *Oligodon*, 199, 221
planiceps, *Rhinophis*, 91
planiceps, *Simotes*, 221
platurus, *Pelamis*, 442, 476
Platyceps, 167
platyceps, *Natrix*, 284, 305
platyceps, *Tropidonotus*, 305

- Platyplectrurus*, 61,
 64, 65, 67, 69
Platypteryx, 341
Plectrurus, 65, 71
plumbea, *Enhydria*,
 381, 382
plumbea, *Hyparrhina*,
 382
plumbeus, *Gomonotus*,
 124.
plumbicolor, *Macro-*
pisthodon, 314
poilani, *Holarchus vio-*
laceus, 217.
polyocellata, *Nana*
naia, 428
Polyodontophis, 276
popei *Natrix*, 282
popei, *Pseudoxenodon*,
 311, 314
popeorum, *Trimeresu-*
rus, 503, 504, 518
porphyracea, *Elaphe*,
 142, 154
porphyraceus, *Ablabes*,
 154,
porphyraceus, *Coluber*,
 154
porphyraceus, *Trimo-*
resurus, 521
porrectus, *Rhinophis*,
 92
porrectus, *Typhlops*,
 45, 46
Potamophis, 131, 380
Præscutata, 441, 447
prasina, *Ahetulla*, 375
prasina, *Elaphe*, 142,
 143
prasinus, *Coluber*, 143
prasinus, *Dryophis*,
 372, 375
premaxillaris, *Opistho-*
tropis, 331, 332
premaxillaris, *Parata-*
punophis, 332.
prevostiana, *Gerardia*,
 394
proarchus, *Dendrophis*,
 242
Proteroglypha, 2, 27,
 406
psammeces, *Typhlops*,
 45, 48.
Psammodynastes, 137,
 139, 368.
psammophilus, *Ty-*
phlops, 48
Psammophis, 23, 137,
 139, 361
Pseudagkistrodon, 314
Pseudoboa, 407
Pseudocerastes, 19, 23,
 478, 479, 480, 490
Pseudocyclophus, 187,
 327
Pseudoferania, 380
Pseudohaje, 426
Pseudoplectrurus, 71
Pseudotyphlops, 65,
 93
Pseudoxenodon, 23,
 136, 138, 311
Ptyas, 135, 138, 158,
 163
pukhella, *Dabosa*, 483
pukhira, *Elaphe por-*
phyracea, 154
pulneyensis, *Plectru-*
rus, 85.
pulneyensis, *Uropeltis*,
 75, 85
pukerulentus, *Dryi-*
nus, 378
pukerulentus,
Dryophis, 373, 378
pukerulentus, *Psam-*
modynastes, 368
punctatum, *Melano-*
phidium, 63, 65, 66
punctatus, *Rhinophis*,
 88, 92
punctatus *Tropidono-*
tus piscator, 294
puncticulatus, *Coron-*
ella, 211, 212
punctulata, *Natrix*,
 283, 285, 292
punctulatus, *Callophus*
maculiceps, 421.
punctulatus, *Simotes*,
 211.
punctulatus, *Tropi-*
donotus, 292
purpurascens,
Holarchus, 202
purpurascens, *Oligo-*
don, 202, 206
purpurascens, *Pas-*
serita, 378
purpureomaculatus,
Lachesis, 520
purpureomaculatus,
Trimeresurus, 503,
 504, 520, 522
purpureus, *Trimeresu-*
rus, 521.
pyramidum, *Scytale*,
 487
Python, 103, 105
Pythonia, 390
pythonissa, *Coluber*,
 383
Pythonomorphus, 380.
Pythonopsis, 380
quadrfasciatus,
Coluber, 146
quadrilineatus, *Oligo-*
don, 198, 210
quadrilincatus, *Simo-*
tes, 210
quadrinaculata, *Calam-*
aria, 238
quincunciata, *Boiga*,
 347, 353
quincunciatus, *Dipsa-*
domorphus, 353
quincunciatus,
Tropidonotus, 293
quinque, *Tropidono-*
tus, 146
quincuculatus,
Trachischium, 324
Rachiodontidae, 403
Rachia, 380
radiata, *Elaphe*, 140,
 146
radiatus, *Coluber*, 146
Radonohis, 139
rappi, *Ablabes*, 186
rappi, *Uropeltis*, 182,
 186
ravergieri, *Coluber*,
 167, 172
ravergieri, *Zamenis*,
 172
rectangulus, *Coluber*,
 293.
resplendens, *Cylm-*
diophis, 95, 96
reticularis, *Coluber*,
 152
reticulata, *Blythia*,
 339
reticulata, *Calamaria*,
 339.
reticulatus, *Python*, 5,
 103, 104, 106, 109
retrofasciatus, *Ablabes*,
 179.
Rhabdophis, 281, 283,
 310
Rhabdops, 137, 139,
 327
Rhamphophis, 139
Rhinophes, 61, 63

- Rhinophis*, 65, 87.
Rhinopirus, 400
rhinopoma, *Tarbophis*, 360
rhodogaster, *Brachyophidium*, 70
rhodogaster, *Dryophis mycterizans*, 376
rhodogaster, *Teretruus*, 69, 70
rhodonotus, *Dryophis mycterizans*, 377
rhodoraichis, *Coluber*, 167, 168
rhodoraichis, *Zamenis*, 168
rhodostoma, *Anastiodon*, 495, 497
rhombeata, *Boa*, 109
Rhynchocalamus, 195
Rhychophis, 136, 138, 192.
rhynchops, *Cerberus*, 393
rhynchops, *Hurria*, 393
ridgewayi, *Lytorhynchus*, 189, 190
ridleyi, *Coluber taenurus*, 151
robusta, *Epidea*, 145
rosen, *Lytorhynchus ridgewayi*, 190
rostrata, *Argyrogena*, 170
roulei, *Holarchus*, 157
rubiventris, *Cyclophis*, 322
rubrolineata, *Silybura*, 82
rubrolineatus, *Uropeltis*, 75, 82
rubromaculata, *Silybura*, 81
rubromaculatus, *Uropeltis*, 75, 81
rufa, *Tortrix*, 96
rufescens, *Achalinus*, 126
ruffa, *Anguis*, 96
ruficeps, *Tropidonotus*, 303.
rufus, *Coluber*, 427
rufus, *Cylindrophis*, 95, 96, 100
rugosum, *Trachischium*, 322
russellus, *Coluber*, 225
russelli, *Cerberus*, 393
russelli, *Daboia*, 482
russelli, *Tortrix*, 47
russelli, *Viperia*, 26, 478, 482
russellianus, *Drymus*, 376
saffiagamus, *Uropeltis*, 93
sagittarius, *Polyodonotus*, 280
sagittarius, *Sibynophis*, 276, 280
sagittatus, *Coluber*, 350
sagittifera, *Naja tripudians*, 428
sancti-johannis, *Tropidonotus*, 293
sanguneus, *Rhinophis*, 88, 89
sanguneus, *Teretruus*, 69
sauteri, *Natrix*, 283, 285, 287
sauteri, *Tropidonotus*, 287
scabicauda, *Plecturus*, 70
schistaceum, *Amphiscema*, 317
schistosa, *Enhydryna*, 449
schistosa, *Helicops*, 319
schistosum, *Atretium*, 319
schistosus, *Helicops*, 319
schneideri, *Homalopsis*, 393
schneideri, *Typhlops*, 51
schneiderianus, *Hurria*, 393
schokari, *Psemmophis*, 363
scopinucha, *Naja tripudians*, 428
scriptus, *Ablabes*, 186
scriptus, *Gongylosoma*, 186
scriptus, *Uropeltis*, 182, 186.
scytale, 494
scytale, *Anguis*, 96
scytale, *Calamaria*, 336
semifasciatus, *Bungarus*, 416
semifasciatus, *Hydrophobus*, 274.
semifasciatus, *Odonotomus*, 271
semifasciatus, *Platyceps*, 168
semifasciatus, *Simotes*, 215, 216
semizonata, *Homalopsis*, 390
septentrionalis, *Calamaria*, 237, 239
septentrionalis, *Dinodon*, 270
septentrionalis, *Lyodon*, 270
shui, *Tapinophis*, 112
shorti, *Silybura*, 80
siamensis, *Calamaria*, 238
siamensis, *Kerlia jordan*, 447
siamensis, *Naja*, 427
siamensis, *Natrix submnata*, 302
siamensis, *Typhlops*, 51
siamensis, *Viperia russelli*, 484
Sibynophis, 136, 138, 276
sieboldi, *Enhydryna*, 381, 389
sieboldi, *Helicops*, 305
sieboldi, *Hypsinhina*, 389
sikkimensis, *Tropidonotus*, 312
Siluboura, 73
Silybura, 61, 73
Simcephalus, 135
Simotes, 195
sindanus, *Bungarus*, 413, 415
sindanus, *Psemmophis*, 363
sucusus, *Sibynophis collaris*, 275
smithi, *Enhydryna*, 181, 385
smithi, *Hypsinhina*, 385
smithi, *Simotes*, 202, 204
soetraungensis, *Hypsinhina bocourti*, 386
Solenoglyphs, 477
Spalerosophis, 167
175.

Spaniopholis, 139
 speciosus, Natrix, 300
 spenceri, Opisthotropis, 330, 331, 333
 Sphecodes, 255
 spilonotus, Oligodon, 223, 225
 spinapunctatus, Oligodon, 279
 spinalis, Acalanus, 127
 spualis, Hydrophis, 451, 453
 spiralis, Leioselasma, 453
 splendidus, Oligodon, 199, 214
 splendidus, Simotes, 214
 Steirophis, 281
 stejnegeri, Trimeresurus, 503, 504, 517
 stenorhynchus, Geophis, 343
 stenorhynchus, Xylophis, 343
 stokesi, Astrotia, 440, 441, 471
 stolata, Natrix, 284, 285, 303
 stolatus, Tropicodonotus, 284
 stoliczkae, Ablabes, 180
 stoliczkae, Boiga, 348
 stoliczkae, Dipsadomorphus, 348
 stoliczkae, Liopeltis, 182, 184
 Stoliczkaia, 26, 123, 125
 strachii, Ancistrodon, 478
 striatus, Lycodon, 257, 261
 striatus, Ophites, 261
 stricticollis, Hydrophis, 451, 459
 strigatus, Lachesis, 514
 strigatus, Trimeresurus, 504, 514
 striolatus, Tropicodonotus, 291, 297
 striolatus, Typhlops, 51
 styani, Turhinopholis, 326
 subalbibus, Coluber, 390

subemetus, Lycodon, 256, 257, 258
 subemetus, Ophites, 258
 subfuscus, Lycodon, 263, 266
 subgriseum, Oligodon, 223, 225
 sublimitis, Vipera russelli, 485
 sublineatus, Oligodon, 200, 227
 sublutescens, Coryphodon, 176
 subminiata, Natrix, 283, 285, 294, 302
 subminiatus, Tropicodonotus, 302
 subocularis, Ahætulla, 242, 249
 subocularis, Den-drophis, 249
 subocularis, Den-drophis tristis, 249
 subpunctatus, Polyodontophis, 279
 subpunctatus, Sibynophis, 276, 279
 subtaeniata, Hypsirhina enhydria, 314
 superciliosa, Vipera, 487
 surgens, Tropicodonotus, 319
 swinhoni, Simotes, 215, 216
 swinhoni, Tropicodonotus, 284

Tachyophis, 239
 taeniata, Psammophis, 362
 taeniatus, Oligodon, 198, 208
 taeniatus, Simotes, 208, 210
 taeniolata, Coronella, 223, 225
 taeniolatus, Oligodon, 200, 223
 taeniura, Elaphe, 142, 150
 taenurus, Coluber, 150
 tamdaoensis, Amblycephalus, 118
 tamdaoensis, Holar-chus violaceus, 215, 216

Taphrometapon, 139, 361, 362
 tapiobanensis, Dendrolaphis tristis, 248
 taprobanica, Chrysopelia, 251, 254
 Tarbophis, 23, 139, 360
 taronensis, Natrix veningi, 286
 templetoni, Oligodon, 228, 237
 tenasserimensis, Ptyas, 164
 tenasserimensis, Zaocys, 164
 tentaculatum, Herpeton, 401
 tenuo, Ophthalmidium, 47
 tenuiceps, Calamaria, 323
 tenuiceps, Trachischium, 322, 323.
 tenuicollis, Typhlops, 45, 50
 tenuis, Typhlops, 48
 tephrogaster, Dryophis mycterizans, 376
 tephrosoma, Typhlops, 51
 Teretrurus, 65, 69
 tessellatum, Natrix, 252
 tessellatum, Tryglyphodon, 355
 Tetragonosoma, 255
 Thalassophina, 447
 Thalassophis, 466
 Thamnocenchris, 502
 Thelotomis, 139
 theobaldi, Oligodon, 199, 220
 theobaldi, Simotes, 220
 theobaldianus, Typhlops, 50
 thurstoni, Typhlops, 15, 49, 51
 tudalli, Typhlops, 45, 53
 Tisiphoni, 491
 Tomvius, 426
 tonkinensis, Amblycephalus, 120
 tonkinensis, C. wongi, 426

tonkinensis, *Elaphe*
moellendorffi, 153
 tonkinensis, *Eber-*
hardtia, 120
 tonkinensis, *Trimere-*
surus, 508
 torquatus, *Hydriophis*,
 460
 torquatus, *Oligodon*,
 199, 219
 torquatus, *Simotes*,
 219
 Toxicæ, 487
 Toxicodryas, 344
 Toxicophis, 490
 Thachuschium, 187,
 139, 321
 trachypsecta, *Aspi-*
dura, 335, 336, 337
 Tragops, 370
 travancoricus, *Cei-*
caspis, 259
 travancoricus, *Lycod-*
on, 257, 259
 travancoricus, *Oligo-*
don, 200, 223
 ricus, *Rhin-*
 91
 Tere-
 Natun,
 298
 Tro-
 326
 his,
 344
 Boiga, 444,
 Dipsado-
 349,
 a, *Dipsas*, 349
 trigonocephalus,
Lachesis, 506
 recurus, 504,
 380
 trilincata, *Hypsinina*.
 383
 trilincatus, *Platyplec-*
trurus, 67, 68
 trilincatus, *Plecturus*,
 68
 truncaculatus, *Callo-*
phis, 420
 Trimeresurus, 478,
 480, 502.

Trimerodytes, 330
 Trimerorhinus, 139
 trinocular, *Coluber*,
 483
 Tripeltis, 195
 tripudians, *Naja*, 427,
 428
 Trirhinopholis, 324
 triseriatus, *Coluber*,
 483
 tristis, *Ahretulla*, 242,
 244, 248
 tristis, *Dendrelaphis*,
 248
 tuiticus, *Psemmophis*,
 367
 Tropidococcyx, 370
 Tropidolæmus, 502
 Tropidonotus, 281,
 310, 314
 Tropidophis, 319
 Typhlina, 43
 Typhlinaus, 43
 Typhlocalamus, 236
 Typhlopidae, 39, 41
 Typhlops, 43
 Tyria, 250
 tyleri, *Tropidonotus*,
 293, 297
 Tytleria, 255

Ulupe, 272
 umbratus, *Coluber*,
 293
 unicolor, *Amblycephalus*
carinatus, 121
 unicolor, *Cerberus*,
 393
 unicolor, *Fordonia*,
 396
 unicolor, *Lycodon* 263
 unicolor, *Naja tripu-*
dians, 428
 unicolor, *Tropidonotus*
piscator, 294
 unicolor, *Xenopeltis*,
 99, 101
 uniformis, *Calamaria*,
 237, 238
 uniformis, *Calamaria*
pavimentata, 238
 uniformis, *Pseudo-*
Xenodon angusti-
ceps, 312
 unumaculata, *Mystus*,
 93
 univirgatus, *Callophis*,
 421, 423

univirgatus, *Elaps*,
 423
 Uraeus, 426
 Uropeltacea, 61
 Uropeltidae, 39, 61
 Uropeltis, 63, 64, 65,
 73, 93
 vaillanti, *Coluber*, 151
 valakadion, *Enhydris*,
 449
 variabilis, *Fordonia*,
 396
 venningi, *Natun*, 283,
 285, 286
 venningi, *Typhlops*,
 46
 ventromaculatus,
Coluber, 167, 168
 ventromaculatus,
Zamenis, 168, 169
 venustum, *Xenodon*,
 222.
 venustus, *Oligodon*,
 200, 222
 venustus, *Simotes*,
 222
 versicolor, *Proboscido-*
phis, 193
 violacea, *Cantoria*,
 398
 violacea, *Coronella*,
 202, 205
 violaceoides, *Holai-*
chus formosanus,
 208
 violaceus, *Holai-chus*,
 215
 violaceus, *Oligodon*,
 215
 violaceus, *Simotes*,
 215
 Vipera, 480, 482
 Viperidae, 40, 477
 viperina, *Boa*, 112
 viperina, *Præscutata*,
 448
 viperina, *Thalasso-*
phina, 448
 Viperinae, 478
 viride, *Gonyosoma*,
 144
 viridis, *Naja tripu-*
dians, 428
 viridis, *Trimeresurus*,
 515
 viridis, *Xenodon*, 315
 vittata, *Naja*, 436

- vittatus*, *Spilotes*, 306
walli, *Boiga ochracea*, 346, 348, 349
walli, *Bungarus*, 414, 418.
walli, *Typhlops*, 49
Wallia, 67
Wallopis, 193, 194
walteri, *Contia*, 188
walteri, *Pseudoclophus*, 188
wardi, *Trigonocephalus*, 513
westermanni, *Elachistodon*, 403, 404
westermanni, *Onychocephalus*, 56
wongi, *Callophus*, 426
wood-masoni, *Oligodon*, 199, 218
wood-masoni, *Silybura*, 79
wood-masoni, *Simotes*, 218
wood-masoni, *Uropeltis*, 74, 79
wynaudense, *Melanophidium*, 66, 67.
wynaudensis, *Picetrurus*, 67
xanthomelas, *Trimersurus*, 510
xanthozonia, *Dryophis*, 376
xanthozonia, *Passerita*, 376
Xenelaphus, 135, 138, 176
Xenochrophus, 137, 138, 317
Xenodermine, 114, 123
Xenodermus, 123
Xenopeltidae, 39, 98
Xenopeltis, 100
xenopeltis, *Tortrix*, 101
Xenopholis, 267
xenura, *Natrix*, 283, 285, 292
xenura, *Tropidonotus*, 292
Xenurelaps, 407
Xylophis 137, 139 341
yunnanensis, *Atracium*, 319, 320
yunnanensis, *Atracium schistosum*, 320
yunnanensis, *Elaphis*, 151,
yunnanensis, *Helicops*, 320
yunnanensis, *Trimersurus*, 517
Zacholus, 193
Zamenis 168, 166
Zootoca, 136, 138, 163
Zapyrus, 163
zara, *Trigonocephalus*, 499
zephrogaster, *Dryophis mycterizans*, 376
ziczac, *Echis*, 487

